

Candidate 6 evidence

Essay 6 – World Religion

Christianity

The name Jesus came from a Hebrew word meaning 'God saves.' Christians believe that Jesus is our saviour and saved us from sin. Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross for us and opened the gates of heaven for all who follow him. The Creed says, 'he suffered death under Pontius Pilot and was buried and on the 3rd day he rose again.' This shows that having a relationship with Jesus will help gain eternal life in heaven. Christian beliefs about Jesus are relevant as Christians will live life looking to Jesus for guidance and think to themselves, 'what would Jesus do' when considering decisions such as loving your neighbour.

Christians believe that Jesus is as fully God as God is and that his words and actions are literally God's words and actions. Christians believe that Jesus is also fully man and was born of the virgin Mary. An implication of this belief is that Jesus was a human being and he understands the temptation we all face to break God's laws. Christians believe that Jesus is also a teacher and teaches parables which are stories with a religious message. In the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, a shepherd is separating the sheep who are kind people, who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and clothe the naked and who will go to heaven. From the goats who do the opposite and do not do these things and will go to hell. This makes Christian beliefs about Jesus less relevant as Jesus lived over 2000 years ago meaning his stories and teachings are not relevant to the issues we face in today's society.

Christians believe that Jesus is part of the Holy Trinity, which is that there is God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit. At mass Catholics practise this belief at the start and end of prayers by saying "in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit." Many Christians believe that Jesus will return to earth in the future to judge us all on how we lived our lives and if we followed God's laws. This makes Christian beliefs about Jesus relevant as by following our 'what would Jesus do' philosophy helps us maintain a relationship with God and gain eternal life in heaven and avoid an eternal punishment in hell. However, beliefs about Jesus may be less significant as Christians may find it difficult to know everything that Jesus and God expects from us and may struggle to learn and enact all his laws.