

Key Words	Definition
Benevolent	God's nature as all-loving.
Holy	Set apart for a special purpose and worthy of worship.
Incarnation	God becoming flesh in the form of Jesus Christ.
Just	God's nature as fair.
Omnipotent	God's nature as all-powerful.
Problem of Evil	The question of why evil exists in the world when God has the power and knowledge to prevent it.
Trinity	God's nature as three 'persons'; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Nature of God

- Christians believe in **one God** who is the creator and the sustainer of all that exists.
- God is **omnipotent** which means they are almighty and have unlimited power.
- God is **benevolent** which means they are all-loving and all-good.
- God is **just** which means they are a perfect and fair judge who will bring about what is right and fair or who will make up for a wrong that has been committed.

Problem of Evil

- Many people question why a loving God, who is almighty and has unlimited power, would allow people to suffer, rather than prevent the evil actions of others from happening.
- Christians believe that a just God treats all people fairly and is incapable of making a wrong judgment.
- Therefore, Christians are sure that they can trust God even when things appear to be going wrong.

Key Figures	Definition
God	Supreme being; the creator and the sustainer of the universe.
Jesus	A Jewish man who was considered by some to be a messiah and God in human form.
Mary	Jesus' human mother, who gave birth to Jesus despite being a virgin.
Pontius Pilate	Roman governor of Jerusalem who sentenced Jesus to death.

Trinity

- Christians believe God is three persons in one. This idea is called the **Trinity**. Each person of the Trinity is fully God, but the three persons of the Trinity are not the same.
- The Father is the creator of all life.
- The Son is Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully God.
- The Holy Spirit is the unseen power of God at work in the world, especially answering prayers.
- *"We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit"* – The Nicene Creed

Incarnation

- Christians believe that God was **incarnated** in human form as **Jesus Christ** at Jesus' birth.
- **Mary** was impregnated by the Holy Spirit and gave birth as a virgin – for Christians this is proof of Jesus' status as the son of God.
- Jesus was fully God and fully human, which helps explain his miracles and resurrection.
- His words, deeds and promises have great authority as they are the word of God.
- Christmas is the festival that celebrates the incarnation.
- *"The Word became flesh"* – John 1:14

Oak Academy Link:

<https://www.thenationalacademy/pupils/programmes/religious-education-secondary-year-10-/units/christian-beliefs-and-teachings-700f/lessons>

Key Words	Definition
Ascension	Jesus returning to be with God in heaven after the crucifixion.
Atonement	Making things better after sinning, asking for forgiveness from God.
Crucifixion	Jesus' execution by the Romans on the cross.
Free Will	When people can make decisions for themselves. Christians believe God has given this to people.
Heaven	The place of eternal peace ruled over by God, or the state of eternal happiness in the presence of God.
Hell	The place of eternal suffering or the state of being without God.
Original Sin	The built-in tendency to do wrong which comes from Eve's disobedience.
Resurrection	Jesus returning from the dead after he was crucified.
Salvation	Being saved from sin and given eternal life in heaven by God.
Sin	Any thought or action which goes against God's will.

CVC Revision Website link:

<https://astreaacademytrust.sharepoint.com/sites/REatCVC/SitePages/Christian-Beliefs.aspx>

Crucifixion

- Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to preach; whilst there he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate before being nailed to a cross.
- In his last moments Jesus was able to forgive those who were killing him showing Christians how important forgiveness is.
- This event is remembered on Good Friday during the Easter celebrations.
- *"Forgive them father, they know not what they do"* – Luke 23:34

Resurrection

- After Jesus was dead and buried Christians believe he rose from the dead – this is the **resurrection**. Early on the Sunday three women visited his tomb expecting to find his body but it was not there. After his resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples and told them to spread the word of him.
- This event is celebrated on Easter Sunday.
- *"He is risen"* – Christians say this to each other on Easter Sunday.

Ascension

- Forty days after he rose from the dead Jesus **ascended** (went up) into heaven.
- A belief in resurrection and ascension is important for a number of reasons.
- It shows that eternal life – life after death – is real.
- It assures Christians they will rise again after death and live on in the afterlife.
- It leads Christians to try and lead a good life.

Sin and Salvation

- Christians believe you are judged after you die which determines if you go to **heaven** or **hell**.
- **Sin** is any action or thought that goes against God's will, Christians can look in the Bible for advice on what is a sin.
- God gave humans **free will** but they should use that freedom to make good choices and not sin.
- **Salvation** is the idea that Jesus's crucifixion saves human beings from eternal damnation.
- The death of Jesus made up for **original sin** – the idea that we were all damned by Eve's choice to disobey God – it allows us to atone for sins and reach eternal life in heaven.