

GCSE Religious Studies Syllabus (Full Course)

Module 1
September – January (15 Weeks)
Year 11

The Challenge of Jesus

[1] Palestine in the time of Jesus

(this may be covered as a set topic or introduced at appropriate times throughout the two years of study)

- the historical and geographical context
- the political background
- the social and religious context of Jewish life in Palestine.

[2] The identity of Jesus

Pupils should investigate

- Jesus' birth
- Luke 2: 1-52 (Saviour)
- Baptism & Temptations
- Jesus calms the storm
- Jesus heals a paralysed man
- Jesus calls Matthew
- Jesus is rejected at Nazareth
- Jesus walks on water
- Canaanite woman's faith
- Peter's declaration about Jesus
- The transfiguration
- Entry into Jerusalem

the identity of Jesus through key stories and events:
key titles – Messiah, Son of Man and Saviour

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Luke 1: 26-56 | Matthew 1: 18-24 | |
| Matthew 2: 1-23 | | |
| Matthew 3: 1-17 | Matthew 4: 1-11 (Son of God) | |
| Matthew 8: 23-27 | | |
| Matthew 9: 1-8 | | |
| Matthew 9: 9-13 | | |
| Matthew 13: 53-58 | | |
| Matthew 14: 22-33 | | |
| Matthew 15: 21-28 | | |
| Matthew 16: 13-20 | | |
| Matthew 17: 1-9 | | |
| Matthew 21: 1-17 (Son of David) | | |

The Christian Church

[3] The Church Calendar

The symbolism and significance of key events in the Church Calendar:

Advent, Christmas, The Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Harvest and Feast & Saints' Days.

[4] The Church Building

The symbolism and significance of Church buildings, the architecture, and the furnishings including: baptistry/font, ambo/lectern/pulpit, communion table/altar (other furnishings could be considered as appropriate).

Christian Morality

[5] Friendship, Love and Marriage
Qualities of love and friendship

- Types of love
- Loyalty and companionship

Preparation for Marriage

- Relationships and Sexuality
- Choice of partner

Christian Teaching on Marriage

- Purpose and meaning of Marriage
- Role of Religion in Marriage
- Christian Wedding Service

Target for January - Year 11
(Formal Examination – 1 x 2 hr. Paper)

Module 3**September – January (15 Weeks)****Year 12****The Challenge of Jesus****[1] His death, resurrection and ascension**

- Warnings about the end Matthew 21: 1-14
- Jesus predicts Peter's denial Matthew 26: 31-35
- Jesus prays in Gethesemane Matthew 26: 36-46
- The arrest of Jesus Matthew 26: 47-56
- Jesus before the Sanhedrin Matthew 26: 57-68
- Peter denies Jesus Matthew 26: 69-75

- Judas hangs himself Matthew 27: 1-10
- Jesus' trial before Pilate Matthew 27: 11-26
- Jesus is mocked Matthew 27: 27-31

- The Crucifixion Matthew 27: 32-44
- Death of Jesus Matthew 27: 45-56
- Burial of Jesus Matthew 27: 57-61
- Guards at the tomb Matthew 27: 62-66
- Resurrection Matthew 28: 1-20
- Jesus on the Emmaus Road Luke 24: 13-35
- Ascension Acts 1: 1-11

The Christian Church**[2] The Sacraments of the Church (part 2)**

The symbolism and significance of the following sacraments, ordinances and practices
Eucharist or Communion,
Confirmation.

[3] The Key Personnel

The role and importance of the key personnel, e.g.
Deacon/Deaconess,
Eucharistic Minister,
Elder,
Minister,
Pastor, Priest, Reader.

Christian Morality**Issues in Society (Part 1)****[4] Abortion**

- Social attitudes to abortion
- Christian teaching on Abortion
- Arguments for abortion
- Arguments against abortion
- Abortion and health professionals
- Abortion and the Law

[5] Coursework 2 (Based upon a study of Abortion)**[6] Euthanasia**

- Voluntary and involuntary Euthanasia
- Suicide and Euthanasia
- Law and Euthanasia
- Christian teaching on Euthanasia
- Christian care for the terminally ill

Target for January - Year 12
(Trial Examination – 1 x 2 hr. Paper and 1 x 1hr. 30 min. Paper)

Module 4**January – June (15 Weeks)****Year 12****The Challenge of Jesus****[1] His deeds**

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| ➤ Jesus heals many lepers | Luke 4: 38-40 |
| ➤ Jesus heals man - skin disease | Luke 5: 12-16 |
| ➤ Jesus heals Roman Officer's servant | Luke 7: 1-10 (Jesus' attitudes to Gentiles) |
| ➤ Jesus at home of Simon (Pharisee) | Luke 7: 36-50 |
| ➤ Jairus' daughter is healed | Luke 8: 40-56 (Jesus' attitude to Religious Leaders) |
| ➤ Parable of Good Samaritan | Luke 10: 25-57 (Jesus' attitude to Racism) |
| ➤ Crippled woman healed on the Sabbath | Luke 13: 10-17 (Jesus' attitude to Women) |
| ➤ Healing a sick man | Luke 14: 1-6 |
| ➤ Humility and hospitality | Luke 14: 7-14 |
| ➤ Parable of Great Feast | Luke 14: 15-24 |
| ➤ Jesus heals ten lepers | Luke 17: 11-19 (Jesus' attitude to Social outcasts) |
| ➤ Jesus heals Blind Beggar | Luke 18: 35-43 |
| ➤ Jesus and Zacchaeus | Luke 19: 1-10 (Jesus' attitude to Sinners) |
| ➤ Parable of the Vineyard | Luke 20: 9-19 |
| ➤ Widow's Offering | Luke 21: 1-4 (Jesus' attitude to the Poor) |

The Christian Church**[2] The Local Organisation**

The local organisation of the churches, e.g.
Parish,
Congregation,
Local Assembly.

[3] Interdenominational Contacts

Interdenominational contacts: initiatives which develop understanding and contact between Christian Churches.

Christian Morality**Issues in Society (Part 2)****[5] Work and Leisure**

- Employment and unemployment
- Responsibility and Rights in Employment
- Purpose of work
- Changing patterns of work
- Work as a Vocation
- Christian teaching on work

- Sunday Observance and leisure
- Changing patterns of leisure
- Christian teaching on leisure

[6] Crime and Punishment

- Reasons for crime
- Social attitudes to crime
- Personal and Social consequences of crime
- Crime and Justice
- Theories of punishment
- Capital Punishments
- Christian teaching on crime and punishment
- Repentance, forgiveness and justice

Suggested Texts for Morality Section:

11. Genesis 2: 2 - 3
12. Genesis 2: 15
13. Exodus 20: 8 - 11
14. Leviticus 24: 19 - 20
15. Psalm 139: 13 - 16
16. Jeremiah 1: 4 - 5
17. Matthew 5: 38 - 39, 43 - 44
18. Matthew 22: 37 - 39
19. Mark 6: 31 - 32
20. Luke 1: 39 - 44
21. John 7: 53 - 8:11
22. 1 Corinthians 3: 16, 17
23. 1 Corinthians 10: 13
24. Ephesians 6: 5 - 7
25. Colossians 3: 23, 4: 1

**Target for May - Year 12
(External Examination)**