

Subject Knowledge Booster Course

Religious Education

WORKBOOK 1

Foundations and Key Events



CHRISTIANITY

Jesus- born in Bethlehem to Joseph and Mary. Mary told by Angel that she would have a son, the Messiah (son of God). His Ministry- after baptism in river Jordan by John the Baptist –40 days of fasting and temptation in wilderness. From age 30 for 3 years. 12 Disciples to help and spread Gospel after his ascension. Performed miracles incl. healing sick and blind. Travelled around Israel teaching about the coming of the 'Kingdom of God' – open to all as long as they have faith in God. Taught in Parables (found in *Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels*). The Last Supper- at Jewish Passover- Judas prepares to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus knew he would die, told others, as was said in Old Test. He had come to die for mankind's sins. Bread as body and wine as blood- basis of Communion. Crucifixion – arrested, brought before P.Pilate, tried, crucified (Good Friday). Vital for man's sins (atonement). Burial- Joseph of Arimathea asks for body, taken,

wrapped in shroud, placed in cave behind rock. Resurrection (Easter Sunday) diff. in each Gospel. Gen = women go to tomb, empty, told of resurrection. Jesus appears several times to disciples over next 40 days until Ascension. Resurrection is greatest miracle, proof of life after death, fulfils scriptures, will return (Second Coming) on Judgement Day. Birth of Church- Jesus and Apostles -> Early Church (after Pentecost) -> Peter- Paul + persecution – conversion of Constantine + Romans – Arian Heresy 318ce -> Councils of: Nicea 325ce, Constantinople 381ce, Ephesus 431ce, Chalcedon 451ce -> Great Schism 1054ce – splits into East (Orthodox) and West -> Inquisition 1233ce -> Reformation 16th Cen. Luther and Calvin -> Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches (incl. Baptist, Methodist, United Reform, Quakers, Pentecostal) -> Reformation in England, Henry VIII formation of Church of England -> 20th Cen. World Council of Churches 1948 -> Second Vatican Council 1962 – 1965.



JUDAISM

3 key figures/patriarchs: Abraham (2000-1800bce) left Ur and went to Canaan (the Promised Land) and later Israel. God promised this land to his descendants. Made covenant. Moses (1300bce) Jews as slaves under Egyptians. Led the Exodus out of Egypt to Canaan (40 years). 10 commandments/Torah-Mount Sinai. Known as Moshe Rabbenu ('our teacher Moses') Greatest prophet. David (1000bce)- 12 tribes of Israelites under Judges. Enemy of Philistines. Asked God for King – Saul- his son David. Captured Jerusalem, made capital of empire. David's son Solomon built the temple. After – kingdom split- 10 Northern tribes swallowed by Assyria, 2 Southern became Judah. Jews descended from Judah. 4 covenants: Noah (Rainbow), Abraham (circumcision), Moses (the law), David (?). Jeremiah- promise of new covenant (Messiah- person or age). 586bce- Babylonians destroy temple- 516bce rebuilt. Greeks conquer and put shrine to Zeus in temple. 3 years later temple restored (celebrated at Hanukkah). Romans 63bce- 68bce temple destroyed again. Torah and synagogues ensure Jews

survival. The Talmud is created by schools of Rabbis over the years (in Babylonian and Palestinian). Judaism revised in the Middle Ages in line with knowledge and understanding. 1135-1204ce Maimonides writes 13 Principles of Judaism and the 'Guide for the perplexed'. Medieval mysticism (Kabbalah) among other messianic movements. 19th Cen. Reform and Liberal movements for 'up to date appeal', Friedlander (Germany) led movement. People's language used. First Reform synagogue set up in UK 1840. Spread to USA. Scientific challenges, changes made to: view in Tenakh and Talmud, legal system, rituals, language, governing of synagogues, dress and dietary laws. 20th Cen. Holocaust- 6 million die in death camps, 1.5 million children. State of Israel established 14th May 1948- continuing problems with Arab nationals previously of the area and the surrounding areas.



ISLAM

- Dates from the last 10 years of the Prophet Muhammad in Makkah around 610ce.
- Raised by his uncle after death of his parents.
- Married the widow Khadijah.
- In 605ce he solved a dispute as to who should put the Black Stone into the rebuilt Ka'ba. He suggested putting it on a cloak carried by each of the arguing tribesmen while he himself placed the stone back into place.
- While meditating on Mount Hira after his 40th birthday an angel (Jibrail/Gabriel) appeared and told him to 'recite' in the name of Allah (God). He didn't so the angel took him by the throat and he still refused. The angel choked him until he did.
- This was the first of his revelations which make up the Qur'an (the Islamic holy book).
- Began preaching in 613ce in Makkah of basic beliefs

(One God, total submission to God, charity, prepare for judgement after death). Not popular at first, due to potential loss of pilgrim trade (idols/multi-god worship).

- Migration to Madina (Hijrah). Start of Muslim calendar.
- Married 10 other women. 628ce/6ah signs treaty with Makkah (after several battles that he won between 624-628ce) and went on pilgrimage. 630ce/8ah returns with army of 10,000 and takes Makkah without resistance. Ka'ba cleared of images and dedicated to Allah.
- Returns to Medina and dies 632ce/10ah.
- Division into Sunni (90%) and Shi'ah.
- Islam spread to many countries incl: Libya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and has a strong following in UK.
- In UK: London, East/West Midlands, Bradford. Native language is Urdu.

Key Beliefs



CHRISTIANITY

1. **The Trinity:** God shows himself in 3 ways:
 - a. **Father:** the creator, who cares for all his creations. He is directly involved in the world and loves unconditionally.
 - b. **Son:** Jesus lived on earth as human. The Messiah. Conceived of Holy Spirit and Virgin Mary. After death rose 3 days later as sign man can die to sin and be reborn in God (Resurrection). God made him the judge for all people. He will return on the last judgement and set up God' kingdom on Earth.
 - c. **Holy Spirit:** a guide for Christians (from Pentecost) NB still monotheistic (one God).
2. **Communion of Saints and the forgiveness of sins:** sins forgiven if people repent and try and change their ways. Saints intercede on behalf of others. Protestants don't believe this.
3. **Heaven:** where Jesus 'sits at the right hand of God'.

- This is where the good go after death.
4. **Purgatory:** RC belief, a place for those who need to be cleansed of sins from life before entering Heaven. Protest. Don't believe this as not in Bible.
 5. **Hell:** damnation for the soul after death for serious sins.
 6. **The Last Judgement:** all men and fallen angels to be judged on the last day by Jesus.
 7. **Credo's:** Apostle's and Nicene, these are formal statements of Christian belief and confessions of faith.

Beliefs differ in churches. The Protestant Church believes the Bible to be the sole source of knowledge about God, whereas the RC and Orthodox churches believe that Bishops and the Pope (RC) are in direct contact with God, and so are another source of knowledge and belief.

Agape: love and forgiveness are the cornerstones of Jesus' teachings, as well as the 10 commandments. Service to others, showing compassion to those who suffer and seeking justice for the oppressed are some other important beliefs.



JUDAISM

Belief in 11 basic principles about God:

1. There is only one God (in the Shema prayer).
2. He is a person, but don't know what He looks like.
3. He is the creator of everything.
4. His power sustains the universe, He is active.
5. He is holy, set apart (won't say His name).
6. Omnipotent- all-powerful but allows free will.
7. Omniscient- all knowing.
8. Omnipresent- He is everywhere.
9. He is the law giver
10. He is the ultimate judge, death is not the end.
11. He is the redeemer, He is merciful.

Jews believe that they are the chosen people- covenant. Responsible for the world not simply privileged to it.

They believe that Israel is the Holy land. State of Israel fulfilled prophesy for some but 2 problems:

1. Seemed wrong to displace Palestinians- led to violence.
2. Some believe the Messiah should found Israel. Not politicians.

The Covenant is a binding 'contract' with God, renewed with the giving of the 10 commandments to Moses. As well as these there are 613 other rules to follow (248+, 365-).

They believe in the coming of a Messiah (person or age) when all will return to the Holy land and war and injustice will end. Afterlife- not clear. Old view of sheol (hell). Bodily resurrection at coming of Messiah. As such buried after death, not cremated usually.

Tenakh: Torah, Nevi'im (prophets), Ketuvim (writings).

Talmud (teachings from schools of Rabbi over the years)

13 principles of Maimonides: not a creed but printed in prayer books, convenient summary of beliefs.

Belief in forgiveness if sinner repents and prays for it.

Belief in being good, kind and charitable.



ISLAM

1. Tawhid- oneness of God. Nothing comes close to Allah; greatest sin is belief that God is not supreme (Shirk).
2. Allah is:
 - a. Beyond time and space.
 - b. Almighty, Compassionate and Merciful.
 - c. Everyone owes their creation and existence to Allah, the One and Only Creator.
3. The 5 Pillars:
 - a. Shahadah- declaration of faith- 'there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah'.
 - b. Salah- prayer 5 times a day- exposed body parts must be washed in water or sand 3 times before prayer.
 - c. Zakah-almsgiving- compulsory 2.5% to poor, family, or charity.
 - d. Sawm- fasting at Ramadan- to remember

when Qur'an first given to Muslims.

- e. Hajj- pilgrimage to Makkah- once a life if you can afford it.
4. Qur'an is ultimate authority (equal to Jesus for Christians). Hadith (traditions) and Sunnah (traditions of the Prophet) are also consulted.
5. Islam is more than a religion: it is a way of life and Muslims are expected to follow the law (Shari'ah) which is presented in detail in the Qur'an.
6. Jihad-
 - a. Greater- inner struggle with evil in oneself.
 - b. Lesser- struggle with injustice in the world around us.
7. Forbidden (Haram)- Usury (interest on money lent), gambling, alcohol, eating pork, blood or meat sacrificed in the name of any god but Allah, eating meat of animal dead of natural causes, attacked, killed or partially eaten by a predator, suicide, lying, cheating or stealing.

Sources of Authority



CHRISTIANITY

- 1) Scripture- Bible (esp. Protestantism- some scripture only). Old Test. less important than New. Creeds: Apostle's and Nicene.
- 2) Tradition- Great councils (Nicea, Constantinople, Ephesus, Chalcedon.
 - Diff. due to East and West, Catholic and Protestant splits.
 - Trinity- not written in but supported by Bible.
- 3) Reason- changing world (eg. Darwin, Big Bang).
- 4) Experience- personal experience (Pentecostal- personal 'gifts' from Holy Spirit).
- 5) For Catholics – Bishops and Pope- believed to be in direct contact with God.

The Bible

- First and primary source of authority.
- 2 parts: Old Testament 2/3, New Testament 1/3
- compiled from separate books by Early Church
- Old Test. obsolete (food laws, sacrifice)
- Everything tested against New Testament
- *Gospels*- most important, life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- *Acts*- early Church as model- focus on Paul
- *Letters*- Galatians, Corinthians, Thessalonians most important.
- *Revelations* –apocalyptic, from time of persecution.

Interpreted 4 ways:

- 1) Literal- fact not metaphorical
- 2) Fundamental – Bible sole authority
- 3) Conservative- some truth, some interpretation
- 4) Liberal- not literal truth, open to interpretation



JUDAISM

The Tenakh- 3 parts:

1. Torah (Law/Teachings): first 5 books of the Bible. 613 commandments (mitzvot) . Holiest part of Tenakh, as was given directly to Moses by God.
2. Nevi'im (Prophets): In 2 parts: Former (history of Israelites after Moses) and Latter Prophets (Isiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel + 12 minor). Encouraged Jews to keep covenant and inspired by God.
3. Ketuvim (Writings): collection of Psalms, Proverbs and Philosophy. Least important.

Torah means different things to different people, as Torah can be used to mean all the teachings of the Tenakh. There are 5 collections of teachings:

1. *The Mishnah* (Learning/Repetition): Oral Torah of 63 volumes written down by Rabbi Judah the Prince.
2. *The Gemara*: extended commentary on above.
3. *The Talmud*: the Mishnah and Gemara combined.

4. The Codes: Summaries of the Talmud, such as Mishneh Torah (Maimonides) and the Shulchan Aruch.
5. The Responsa: As new questions arise from science and other knowledge rabbis meet to give 'responses' to difficult questions.

10 commandments: should be followed, as well as as many of the other 613 mitzvah.

Halakhah: Jewish law and the interpretation and application of changing situations, from sources such as Bet Din (council of Rabbis/three judges [dayasim]) and Yeshivas (colleges/schools).

Synagogues and the Rabbis: Judaism has no priests as such. Rabbi means 'teacher'.

In short: The Torah is the ultimate and primary authority for the Jews, though its literal truth is taken only by the Orthodox Jews. Reform and Liberal interpret the Torah differently.



ISLAM

- Ultimate source of authority is the Qur'an:
 - a. *It is a complete record of Allah's words* (recorded by followers of the Prophet).
 - b. *Totally accurate and unchanged*: Caliph Uthman made sure there was only one copy and it was completely correct.
 - c. *A guide to Islamic life*: what Muslims must believe and how they must live. It is held as correct as it came directly from Allah. Includes law (Shari'ah).
 - d. *Always in Arabic*: if read in translation then you could miss the proper meaning.
- Treated with great respect: often wrapped up, wash hands before handling it, on a higher shelf than other books, on special stand when read.
- Divided into 114 Surahs (chapters): arranged in order of length, each made up of ayats (verses); most begin with the Bismillah ('In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate').

- Hadith and Sunnah: the first is the sayings of Muhammad not in Qur'an, second is actions and way of life of the Prophet.
- *As such special attention is paid to Muhammad as he was chosen by Allah and is the greatest of the 5 mighty prophets (Nuh, Ibrahim, Musa, Isa, Muhammad).*
- The Five Pillars: Shahadah (Bearing Witness), Salah (Prayer), Zakah (Charity), Sawm (Fasting), Hajj (Pilgrimage).
- Shi'ah: believe in authority of special leaders called Imans as additional sources of authority.
- Sunna: the practice of regulating beliefs about Islam (only in Hadith, Qur'an is word of Allah so cannot be discussed). 4 different classifications:
 1. Sound (Sahih)
 2. Good (Hasan)
 3. Weak (Da'if)
 4. Infirmary (Saqim)

Worship



CHRISTIANITY

2 types of worship:

1. Liturgical: this is formal worship, elaborate and colourful with set parts for different people (e.g. call and response types prayers between congregation and priest). There is more involvement from congregation in Orthodox, Catholic and Anglican churches. Form is set out in a 'lurgy'. Belief expressed through use of many symbolic objects and rituals.
2. Non-liturgical: set worship avoided. Common in Protestant churches. Emphasis on Bible reading, prayer, hymns and sermons. Sacraments may be used (communion, baptism) emphasis on spoken and written meanings of Christianity.
 - Those who follow 1 see worship as 'sacrament' with an emphasis on outward signs of belief. In 2 emphasis on the 'word

of God'.

- Acts of worship-
 - a. Enable expression/declaration of faith.
 - b. Inspiration/strength in lives.
 - c. Provoke responses e.g. praise, joy etc.
 - d. Can be expressed through different means like music, art, lighting candles etc.

During as typical service prayers are said by the priest and congregation, hymns are sung, readings are made from the gospels and other parts of the Bible, the priest delivers a sermon, communion may take place (depending on church), and finally church news is read out in some churches (such as bans before a marriage). Order and emphasis changes depending on church. Communion in particular can mean different things depending on the church (e.g. transubstantiation in Catholic/ remembrance non-conformist).



JUDAISM

- Belief that a person can pray to God anywhere, anytime.
- Use of prayer book called a siddur.
- Each day there are 3 services in synagogue: Morning (shacharit), Afternoon (minchah), Evening (arvit).
- These times coincide with times of sacrifice in the temple.
- Additional service on new moons (musaf).
- Shema most important prayer. Said in morning/evening service and before sleep.
- Men wear Tallit (prayer robe) in mornings and the 2 leather boxes (tefillin). Robes had fringes called tzitzit- 613 like commandments. Tefillin contain scrolls of 4 parts of the Torah. These are on the arm near the heart (keeping God in the heart) and on the forehead (God in the brain).
- For proper service in synagogue there must be a minyan- a group of 10 men.

- Sabbath: praying at home on the Friday evening before a service, followed service on Saturday morning, where a rabbi will read from the Torah and give a sermon. 7 men are asked to read/recite a blessing, an eighth reads from the Nevi'im. NB in Orthodox men and women are separated. On Saturday evening there is a final service and three prayers are read, reading from the Torah.
- Before this the home is cleaned to prepare for welcoming the sabbat. At dusk mother lights 2 candles and welcomes sabbat with a blessing.
- At beginning of meal a kiddush takes place (also at synagogue). Wine used (sweetness and joy).
- Challot eaten (plaited loaves). Blessed, cut and dipped in salt. Rep. Double portion of food (manna) provided by God before Exodus.
- Father blesses children, meal eaten.
- Havdalah marks end on sabbat, separates from next 6 days. Blessing over sweet spices, cup of wine, plaited candle.



ISLAM

Follows the 5 Pillars:

- 1) Shahadah: Bearing Witness: 'There is no other god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Prophet of Allah'. This leads to obligation.
- 2) Salah: Prayer: 5 times a day: sunrise, early afternoon, late afternoon, after sunset, late at night. Call to prayer (adhan) made by muezzin from minaret of mosque. Prayer mat used if not in mosque. Wudu: ritual cleaning of exposed body parts (3 times each). Face Makkah (qiblah). Set ritual called rak'ah, repeated several times. Involves standing, kneeling and putting forehead on ground. If several Muslims are present then prayer is done together as sign of unity. Friday prayer- Salat-al-Jum'ah- community occasion, at least 40 people praying together.
- 3) Zakah- almsgiving- 2.5% of disposable income is distributed to needy Muslims. It is a sign of concern for others.

- 4) Sawm-fasting- *must fast between sunrise and sunset during month of Ramadan*. A time of physical and self discipline and total obedience to Allah. Makes Muslims understand hunger and make them willing to help others. *Shows publicly that Allah matters more than any physical need.*
- 5) Haji- pilgrimage- *must be made once in lifetime if can afford it and strong enough to survive it. Follows footsteps of Muhammad. Clothing called ihram worn by all pilgrims. It is basic and shows equality before Allah. At Makkah seven circuits of Ka'ba made, touching stone if possible (tawaf). Seven journeys made between hills of Safa and Marwa (where Hagar searched for water for Ismail). Called Sa'y. Water drawn from Zamzam Well. Next to Mount Arafat where they pray for forgiveness. Stones thrown at 3 pillars in Mina (driving away of Devil). 4 day festival (Id-ul-Adha): prayer at mosque, sacrifice of sheep/goat/chicken. Hajji-title for those who complete pilgrimage.*

Fasts and Festivals



CHRISTIANITY

- **Advent** (Nov/Dec) 4 Sundays before Xmas. Preparing for coming of Jesus both first (from prophesies) and second in future. Candles lit in Church. Purple/Violet and was a season of fasting in the past. Orthodox- 40 days of penance.
- **Christmas** (Dec 25th)- Gold/white- birth of Christ (Incarnation). RC and Orthodox- 'Midnight Mass', Crib. 12 days of Xmas to 5th Jan.
- **Epiphany** (6th Jan)- visit of wise men (Jesus known to non-Jews), baptism and first miracle (water to wine). Transfiguration remembered.
- **Lent** (Feb/March)- 40 days before Easter (Jesus' fasting and temptation in the wilderness). Day before is *Shrove Tuesday*. *Ash Wednesday* is 1st day- ash on believers' foreheads to show repentance.
- **Holy Week** (March/April)- last week of Lent, from

Palm Sunday (Jesus to Jerusalem) through Maundy Thursday (Last Supper), Good Friday (Crucifixion).

- **Easter Sunday**- the Resurrection. RC and some Angl. hold Easter Vigil at midnight on Holy Saturday. Orthodox- outside church until midnight when doors are opened and they enter with lit candles. Yellow/gold/white. (NB At time of Passover exc. Orthodox)
- **Ascension** (May/June)- 40 days after- Jesus to Heaven.
- **Pentecost**- 10 days after- coming of Holy Spirit to Apostles- to go out and teach about Jesus.
- **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**- RC + Orth. Mary didn't die but straight to Heaven (Protest. don't believe, not in Bible)
- **Trinity Sunday**- Sunday after Pentecost, year end.
- RC- also *Corpus Christi* (Thurs after), *Sacred Heart* (Fri of 3rd week after) and *Transfiguration* (August)



JUDAISM

- 1. Purim/Lots** (Early Spring): to remember Esther, Queen of Persia who saved Jews from death by Haman in 5th Cen. The day before is a fast, reading of scroll of Megillah, Haman's name drowned out by noise or rattles during reading, fancy dress, plays.
- 2. Pesach/Passover** (Spring): Exodus from Egypt, the passing of the angel of death over the houses of the Israelites only killing Egyptians' 1st born sons. Leaven (e.g. yeast) is forbidden, Sadr (meal) with matz (biscuit), wine, salt, water, bitter herbs, karpas (veg), burnt egg, bone.
- 3. Shavuot/Weeks** (Early summer): giving of Torah from God to Moses on Mt Sinai 7 weeks after Egypt. Synagogues decorated with flowers, men study Torah all night, cheesecake eaten.
- 4. Sukkot/Tabernacles** (Autumn): the trek through the desert with Moses and the shelter in Tabernacles (tents). Family may decorate and live in a sukkah (temp shelter). Use of the 4 species: etrog (citron), lulav (palm branch), aravot (willow), hadassim (myrtle).

5. Simchat Torah/Rejoicing of the Torah (Autumn): End of annual cycle of Torah readings. Readings from end of Deuteronomy and beg. of Genesis. Men take all Torah scrolls from the Ark and dance around the synagogue 7 times, singing and clapping.

6. Rosh Hashana/New Year (Sept/October): Ram's horn (Shofar) blown (approach of God). Begins 10 days repentance ending in...

7. Yom Kippur/Atonement: Most solemn day. 25 hour fast. Sins confessed and God asked for forgiveness. Everyone's fate for the next year written in God's book during Rosh Hashana and sealed on Yom Kippur (last chance to change what's written). Shofar blown again to mark end.

8. Hanukkah/Dedication (Winter): Victory over Syrian Greeks, retaking of the temple in Jerusalem. Hanukiah/Menorah lit (8-branched candle). Doughnuts eaten. Children play with spinning top.

Most important is the **Sabbat** (Sabbath) a weekly festival beginning Friday sunset and ending Sat. sunset as set out in the **Ten Commandments**.



ISLAM

Word for festival is 'id' or 'eid' from an Arabic word meaning 'returning at regular intervals'. Festival cycles are important as they give repeated *opportunity to praise and thank God, remember loved ones, forgive enemies and meet with those not seen very often*. As the Muslim calendar is 11 days shorter than the solar calendar festivals are at different times each year.

2 major festivals:

Id-ul-Adha: the climax of the Hajj pilgrimage. Most important festival. Commemorates Ibrahim's rejection of the devil and complete submission to God. All Muslims take part. In Muslim countries everything shuts for 4 days. Days spent thinking of self-sacrifice symbolised by sacrifice of animal. The feast represents Muslim's readiness to put God above every other aspect of their lives. Much preparation goes before the event, including the selection of the animal to be sacrificed. Animal must be killed quickly and painlessly, often by an abattoir worker (in Britain). A special licence is also needed. The meat is then sent to the poor and needy.

Id-ul-Fitr: end of fast month of Ramadan. Preparation begins well in advance (money for charity, cleaning house, food prepared etc). There is much celebration when the moon appears, and the fast is broken sensibly with dates or a drink (respect to Muhammad). After prayer is the meal.
6 other important days:

1. Mawlid an-nabi: Prophet's birthday. A day or a month. Processions, accounts of Muhammad's life and work told.

2. Laylat-ul-qadr: Night of Power, the night of God's first revelation to Muhammad. Last 10 days of Ramadan.

3. Laylat-ul-miraj: Muhammad's journey to Jerusalem and ascension to God.

4. Latlat-ul-bara'at: full moon before Ramadan, when Prophet prepared for Ramadan by praying all night. Many do this now.

5. Muharram: New Year's Day, beginning of Muslim calendar.

6. Muharram/Ashura: Shi'ite day of mourning. For others day of fasting to remember Nuh leaving Ark, God saving Musa from Pharaoh (same as Atonement in Judaism).

Rites of Passage



CHRISTIANITY

Lives are a journey with God:

1. Baptism/Christening: child is baptised by a priest by Holy water being poured on the head (as Jesus was baptised in water) over a font. The child is now a part of the Church. Various differences in churches e.g. use of oil in Chrismation in Orthodox, oil crosses on forehead and chest and giving of saint's name to child in RC. NB some churches only believe in adult baptism or a dedication service instead.
2. Confirmation: renewing of vows of baptism. Prepared by priest then confirmed by bishop. RC 7+. Child can take communion after. NB Orthodox baptism + confirmation=the same.
3. Confession/penance: RC/Orthodox. Emphasis on reconciliation as sin is barrier between people.
4. Communion: receiving of bread and wine (body and blood of Christ), RC must confess sins to be in grace before, Orthodox all can take, some Anglican churches practice

confession.

5. Marriage: Union of man and woman in sight of God. Anglican: bans read on 3 Sundays before, Groom and family at church first, Bride given away by her father, promise to 'love, cherish, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health til death do us part', hymns sung, prayers said. Divorce not allowed in RC, annulment is though. No re-marriage in RC.
6. Family: natural flowering of Christian religion, stable environment for children (gifts from God). Contraception: most churches accept in some capacity, except RC, which allows only natural methods.
7. Death: belief in afterlife. Funeral held. Eulogy read, hymns and readings. Burial or cremation (not as popular in RC/Anglo-catholic due to bodily resurrection belief).



JUDAISM

For Boys:

- 1) Circumcision/Brit Milah: 8 days after birth (even on Sabbath or Holy day). Foreskin removed by expert (Mohel) while boy held by Sandek (usually Grandfather). Given Hebrew name. Sign of the covenant with God.
- 2) Redemption of First born: if child is first born son then when 30 days old father gives him to a 'priest' (none exist as such, maybe a 'Levi' or 'Cohen') and then redeems him (buys him back) for 5 silver coins. This buys the child out of priesthood.
- 3) Bar Mitzvah/Son of the Law: at 13 a boy becomes a man by Jewish law and is responsible for his own keeping of commandments. On the Sabbath after his 13th there is a special service (boy wears prayer shawl for 1st time and tefillin, reads from Torah and receives a blessing), a small reception and a big party.

For Girls:

- 1) Receive names on the Sabbath following birth (Sephardic Jews may name her 7 days after birth in *zeved habat* or 'gift of a daughter').
- 2) In Reform/Liberal: Bat Mitzvah(daughter of the law): at age 12 (as girls mature faster than boys). In Progressive Jews may be identical to Bar Mitzvah. Orthodox may have ceremony called Bat Chayil (daughter of excellence). Girls study prior to a special service where she will make a speech.

Marriage: Must marry Jew. Gentiles must convert. In synagogue under canopy (Chuppah) representing future home. Marriage contract written (*khutbah*) in Aramaic. Blessing over wine, praise of God, prayer for rebuilding of temple and for couples happiness. Glass broken under groom's foot.

Death: Mourning for 7 days at home. Continues for 23 days, no entertainment allowed. Children commemorate for rest of lives. Special prayer (Kaddish) said in daily services. Buried within 24 hours in a cemetery (someone with body all the time before).



ISLAM

1. Birth:
Children born with 'clean slate'. First word a child should hear is 'Allah'. As soon as it is born the call to prayer (*adhan*) is whispered in its ear. As such the first words a child hears are the central teachings of Islam.
2. Naming ceremony/Aqiqah:
At 7 days old child's head is shaved and donation given to poor of silver or gold weighing the same amount as hair. Sacrifice or 1 sheep or goat for girl, 2 for a boy. 1/3 given to hungry, family eat rest. Child named either: a. after one of the Prophet's friends or family or b. given a name which shows obedience to God. Party/celebration. Boys are circumcised.
3. Marriage:
Sometimes arranged by family so as to give greatest chance of success, though consent must be given by couple. Husband pays dowry to wife (*Mahr*) so that she may have independent funds in case of divorce (this must

be returned if she chooses to divorce him against his will). Ceremony is simple: readings, vows, prayers, signing of *nikah* (contract).

4. Death:
Muslims hope not to die alone, as friend or family must keep them company and look after them, ensure last minute business is dealt with (so the dying Muslim is not distracted), pray and recite 'there is no God but Allah' so that the dying person is helped to concentrate on God. Ideally Allah should be the last thing a Muslim hears.

5. Burial:
Body is washed as a sign of respect and wrapped in a clean white shroud. Funeral prayers are said (*Janazah*) praying that the person will be judged mercifully and go to Paradise. Buried in a simple grave on right side with face towards Makkah. A period of mourning is held for 3 days, ending with Qur'an reading and prayers for the departed. Some continue this 40 days after as well. Muslims aren't ashamed to cry as Muhammad did at the death of his son.

Sacred Places

<p>✚ CHRISTIANITY</p> <p><u>Pilgrimage sites</u>, not compulsory, often places associated with Jesus or saints. E.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Holy Land</i>: especially Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth. • <i>Rome</i>: St Peter's Church/The Vatican. • <i>Canterbury</i>: tomb of Thomas a Becket. • <i>Lourdes</i>: where St Bernadette had visions of Mary, healing spring waters. • <i>Walsingham</i> in Norfolk. • <i>Lindisfarne</i>. • <i>Iona</i>. • <i>The tomb of St Cuthbert</i> in Durham. • <i>Downpatrick</i> in Ireland: St Patrick's tomb. • <i>St David's in Wales</i>: tomb of St David. • <i>Santiago de Compostela</i> in Spain: tomb of St Iago (James) 	<p>Different churches have different places of worship:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Anglican</u>: Cathedrals and Parish Churches. Many built before reformation, often cruciform, bell tower/spire/belfry at one end of nave (main part), alter at other (on Chancel/raised platform). Lectern for readings, pulpit for sermons, font for baptism. 2. <u>Catholic</u>: more elaborate, named for saint or Virgin Mary sometimes. Confessional (booth), sacristy (for robes), Lady Chapel (for Mary), Tabernacle (holds bread/wine). 3. <u>Orthodox</u>: shape of Greek cross, large dome, seats only for elderly or weak. A lot of decorations and gold. Screen between congregation and alter. Different parts represent different things e.g. floor=Earth. 4. <u>Non-conformist</u>: simple design, modern, rectangular. Pulpit, Com.table, cross.
<p>✡ JUDAISM</p> <p><u>Pilgrimage</u>: not an obligation. Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Wailing wall</i>: Western wall of temple in Jerusalem. Grieve for its destruction by the Romans in 70ce. They pray in front of it, kiss the stones and put written prayers in the cracks between the stones. Hope that temple will be rebuilt someday. 2. <i>Yad Vashem</i>: remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust. Bare room lit by single candle with names of victims on floor. Also remember the Righteous Gentiles who helped Jews to escape. 3. <i>Masada</i>: a fortress defended by Zealots against Romans. Captured after 3 years siege. Pilgrims remember the sacrifice and may take up Zionism (belief in the protection of Israel). <p>Synagogue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No rules for what it should look like outside. May be ornate or plain, with or 	<p>without symbols such as menorahs or stars.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Inside is based on layout of the Temple. Faces Jerusalem, usually rectangular. <u>4 common features</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Aron Hakodesh/Ark</i>: where Torah is stored. b. <i>Ner Tamid(Perpetual light)</i>: a light that never goes out, representing the menorah in the Temple. c. <i>Sefer Torah (Scrolls)</i>: on 2 wooden poles. Handwritten by a sofer (scribe). Kept in Ark. d. <i>Bimah/Almemar</i>: raised platform with desk in centre of hall. e. Sometimes pulpit, 10 commandments above ark, gallery for women in Orthodox.
<p>☾ ISLAM</p> <p><u>Many of the places held a sacred to the Muslims are those connected with the area where Muhammad lived and preached.</u> As such the 2 cities of Makkah and Medina hold special importance for the followers of Islam:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Makkah</u>: birthplace of Muhammad, where he lived and worked before his call to preach. Site of the Ka'ba, the most Holy place for all Muslims. Here the Black Stone lies where Muhammad placed it. It is the first place Muslims visit on Hajj. It was built by Adam and rebuilt by Ibrahim. Pilgrims must circle it 7 times (tawaf). 2. <u>Mount Hira</u>: it is here that Muhammad first encountered God. 3. <u>Medina</u>: Muhammad was asked to lead this city of Muslims and it is where Islam grew in strength. It is called 'city of the Prophet'. 4. <u>Well of Zamazm</u>: where Hagar drew water for 	<p>Ismha'il after banishment by Ibrahim.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <u>Plain of Arafat</u>: where Muhammad preached his last sermon. 6. <u>Mina</u>: where pillars are stoned and sheep sacrificed. 7. <u>Tomb of Muhammad at Medina</u>. 8. <u>Mosques</u>: these are Muslim temples and are beautifully decorated with calligraphy (as pictures of God are banned). Rectangular. Washing facilities are provided for cleaning before prayer. A large domed roof. <i>Minarets</i> for the call to prayer sometimes 2. Women worship separately from men, and wash separately. The inside is bare, with the entrance opposite the <i>Mihrab</i> (recess facing Makkah), carpeted floor, pulpit (<i>Mimbar</i>). Shoes are removed before entering, 33 prayer beads may be used 3 times through the hands to remember the 99 names of God.

Values & Moral Principles

<p>✝ CHRISTIANITY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The 10 Commandments/Decalogue</u>: basically about showing respect to God and others. 2. <u>Teachings of Jesus</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 'Don't just respect- love' b. Spirit of the law is more valuable than the word of the law. c. A person's motivation is more important than their actions- anger at someone is just as bad as killing them. d. Respect not enough- love is more important. Most important commandment: '...love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; the second is this: love your neighbour as you love yourself'. 3. <u>4 types of love</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eros: sex/erotic. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Philia: friendship between equals. c. Storge: affection for family, pets etc. d. Agape: Christian love, giving without taking. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Agape is guiding Christian principle: bible shows in John, Mark and Corinthians. 5. <u>Forgiveness</u>: goes with love. Closely related to repentance, accepting others forgiveness and forgiving others. Revenge should not be sought and offenders should reform. 6. <u>Sermon on the Mount</u>: many values taught by Jesus. Christians respond with <u>values in action</u> e.g. <i>being of service to others, showing compassion to those who suffer and seeking justice for the oppressed.</i> 7. <u>Views on</u>: sex (in marriage), injustice, homosexuality (Angl/RC), equality (Angl./RC), racism, crime, war (Just War principle), drugs (none illegal, alcohol ok in measure), media (bad influence of soap operas, films, violent games etc).
<p>✡ JUDAISM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Orthodox</u>: must obey the 613 mitzvot in the Torah. 2. Most famous are <u>10 commandments</u>. 3. <u>248 positive mitzvot</u> telling Jews what they should do. 4. <u>365 negative mitzvot</u> telling them what not to do. 5. <u>Ritual mitzvot</u>: about relationship with God. 6. <u>Moral mitzvot</u> (ethical): about dealings with other people. 7. The first 4 of the 10 commandments are ritual and the other 6 are moral. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Commandments are main form of communication with God. b. Keeping them is in their own interests. c. Leads to living a disciplined life. <p><i>Progressive view</i>: Torah is God's teaching interpreted by human beings. Can be adapted or parts abandoned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Observant Jews</u>: vital to live by a moral code, a 	<p>moral individual combines religious observance with concern for others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They look to the Torah, Talmud then to other parts of Jewish teaching. • Hard to keep all 613 but God is forgiving if one is truly sorry. • <u>Various views on topics</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sex: in marriage, no adultery, contraceptives ok depending on type and circumstance, homosexuality criticised. b. Charity: very important, list of 8 ways of giving charity from Miamodines. c. Compassion: love thy neighbour as thyself, kindness is important to animals as well as people and the planet as God made the Jews responsible for the world, it is not simply a privilege. d. War: 2 types: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Obligatory</i>: e.g. of self-defence, pre-emptive strike to avoid attack, help a neighbouring country, command of God. 2. <i>Optional</i>: when all attempts at peace fail.
<p>☾ ISLAM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morality and law all come directly from the Qur'an and Shari'ah. 2. The Qur'an holds laws on nearly everything for Muslims but many modern problems such as drugs aren't covered, so that is when they turn to the Shari'ah for day-to-day matters. 3. The shari'ah takes its laws from the Qur'an, Hadith, Sunnah. Muslim custom and practice. 4. If these fail then the following may be used: consensus or agreement, taken by learned scholars who trust Allah to make sure they get it right. Secondly analogy or similarity is used; something similar is used (e.g. heroin is not mention in Qur'an so alcohol is used as an example). <p><u>Life and Death</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Life is sacred, gift from Allah and only He can decide when to take it away. As such abortion is seen 	<p>as wrong, except under certain circumstances (mother's life in danger). 'Slay not your children'. Contraception is allowed as long as it is reversible (again if mother's life in danger, if already have children, possibility of disability, poor). Euthanasia is wrong according to Islam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Divorce</u> is permissible under certain circumstances, for both men and women. Remarriage is encouraged. • <u>Charity</u>: demanded by one of the 5 pillars, similar to Judaism. This can be to family, the poor or needy. • <u>Sex</u>: Not before marriage, in fact men shouldn't be in private with women unless the pair are married. Chaperones are used so that couples can get to know each other before marriage.

Distinctive Features

<p>✚ CHRISTIANITY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belief in the Trinity, yet still a monotheistic religion. 2. Belief in the fulfilment of the prophesy of the Messiah. 3. Belief in the second coming of the Messiah on Judgement Day. 4. Belief that the Messiah is a person and that person is Jesus Christ. 5. Belief that God is all powerful, loving, knowing and is everywhere and is active in the world. 6. Belief in miracles performed by Jesus and the Saints. 7. Overall message of love, forgiveness, peace, repentance and salvation. 8. Distinct factions make it a broad and diverse 	<p>religion in different parts of the world, often mixed in various regions and countries. However, this has led to a lot of disagreement, conflict and suffering. Fails to produce a 'united front'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Clear religious icons: the cross, Jesus on the crucifix, colours of festivals/times of year. 10. Largest religion in the world in terms of numbers of followers. 11. Freedom: no clothing laws, food laws. 12. Certain branches such as the Anglican or Protestant churches are much more modern in their attitudes and approaches to faith e.g. the use of contraception, women priests, homosexual marriages. Roman Catholic church much more 'old fashioned' or traditional.
<p>✡ JUDAISM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A race as much as religion. 2. Distinct symbols: Star of David, Menorah. 3. Distinct clothes for prayer: skullcap (Kippah), 2 x leather boxes on forehead and upper arm (Tefillin), Prayer shawl (Tallit), Fringes (Tzitzit). 4. Diet laws: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kosher food: no pork, rabbit, horses, predator, eels, shellfish, shrimp, frogs. b. No blood in meat. c. Meat and milk must be separate. d. Separate dishes for meat and dairy. 5. Keeping of the Sabbath from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. 6. Charity is important as is kindness to all not 	<p>just other Jews.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Belief in the coming of a messiah, either a person or a golden age. 8. Belief in the right to live in the Holy land of Israel. 9. Repentance and atonement for sins with God and seeking forgiveness from those who are wronged. 10. No real belief in the afterlife, except resurrection on the day of Judgement. 11. Use of Hebrew language. 12. Coming of age ceremonies for both boys and girls at a relatively young age.
<p>☾ ISLAM</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youngest of the three major religions. 2. Second largest number of followers in the world, second only to Christianity. 3. Stems from the same beginning as Judaism and Christianity (Abraham/Ibrahim). 4. Like Judaism not simply a religion but a way of life. However stronger emphasis on conformity and dictation of every aspect of living. This can cause problems for Muslims living in a non-Muslim country (e.g. time off for prayer, banks and business, food preparation). 5. Strong emphasis on charity, like Judaism it is a requirement not a suggestion. 6. Many prophets shared with the other 2 religions (Noah, Moses, Abraham and Jesus). However, Muhammad is regarded as the greatest prophet. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. No messiah figure, as Islam disregards Jesus as Son of God as the trinity is impossible according to Islam as nothing and nobody can be the equal of Allah. 8. Adherence to the law as apposed to the Christian adherence to love. 9. Images of Allah or Muhammad banned. As such calligraphy is used to decorate mosques. 10. Polygamy allowed but not common (illegal due to British law). 11. Ritual cleaning before prayer (physical compared to spiritual 'confession' in other faiths). 12. Sacred text given higher standing than any person (compared to Christianity, where Jesus is held as higher than either part of the Bible). 13. Religion of action: what you do is most important.

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