

Incarnation- Revision

Jesus as God

- Doctrine of the Incarnation- God took on full human limitations of being a human.
- The Annunciation- When the angel appears to Mary she is told that she will carry the 'Saviour', tells her she is pregnant by the Holy Spirit.
- This is not just a message for her, but for all Jewish people; as God is fulfilling promises made to Abraham and his descendants.
- Grace- works through Mary to bring the Son of God into the world.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Luke 1: 26-38

Questions:

1. What is grace?
2. What is the Incarnation
3. How do we know it was Mary's choice to become pregnancy?

God's Message to Joseph

- Joseph is shown to be willing to obey God's plan. He is told to name the son of God Emmanuel; 'God saves'.
- Comparing Luke and Matthew- Matthew's account focuses on

Joseph because it was written for the Jewish community where a woman's evidence had little value. Whereas, Luke was writing for non-Jewish readers where there was a greater respect for women.

- Both accounts have the same message; Mary was a virgin, God worked through human beings, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, an angel announced His birth.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Matthew 1: 18-24

Questions:

1. How did Joseph receive the news of Mary's pregnancy?
2. Why is the Virgin birth so important to Catholics?

Jesus, the Word of God

- John's gospel begins with an explanation of Jesus as the Word of God made flesh.
- In the beginning was the Word- the Word (God) existed before all things; He is eternal.
- The Word was God- it is God's own self-expression.
- The Word was with God- while the word and God are

one they are also two distinct things.

- The Word became flesh- God took on human nature and came to earth to live as a full human being.
- The word as an expression of love- Jesus is God's free gift to the human race to help people learn how to respond fully to God's love.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 10- In Jesus Christ, God himself came to earth.
- John 1: 1-4

Questions:

1. Why do you think John decided to start his gospel in this way?

Jesus as Fully Human and Fully God

- Throughout the gospels the evangelists show Jesus' human experiences.
- Son of Man- Jesus often uses this title. This often emphasises the suffering he would go through as someone who was fully human.
- Son of God- This is a title more commonly used by others but Jesus also acknowledges himself as the Son of God. This emphasises his divinity. God is eternal; and we have evidence

that Jesus was also because of the events of his death and resurrection.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

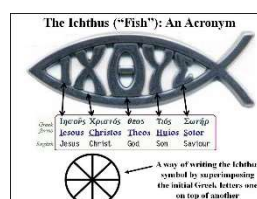
- Mark 8: 31- Jesus explains to his disciples that the Son of Man must suffer and be killed.
- Mark 14: 61-62- The Sanhedrin ask Jesus if he is the Son of God and he replies, 'I am'.
- Youcat 77- Through Jesus, God became one of us.
- Gaudium et Spes 22- Jesus worked with human hands, thought with a human mind etc.

Questions:

1. Who are the evangelists?
2. Why did Jesus use these different titles at different times?
3. Give examples of where Jesus shows himself to be divine and human.

Christian Symbols

- Symbols are useful in religion to present truths that are difficult to explain.
 - Ichthus- Ichthus means 'fish'. Each letter represents one word of a Greek saying about Jesus;



Jesus Christ, God, Son, Saviour. It was used among early Christians.



- Alpha and Omega- Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega the last. It shows the God and Jesus are involved in everything from beginning to end. It is used in many ways but most commonly on the Paschal Candle that is lit at the Easter Vigil.



- Chi-Rho- These are the first two letters for the word 'Christ'. It vaguely forms the shape of a cross and is a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection (the final proof that He was the Messiah).

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Revelation 21:6- "Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.'

Questions:

1. Which symbol do you think best represents Christian beliefs about the Incarnation? Justify your answer.

2. Why did the Early Christians have to use the Ichthus?

Incarnation and Art

- Reasons against the use of art-
 - God is infinite and the use of art limits Him.
 - Jews and some Christians believe that the 2nd commandment forbids people to make any form of artistic representation of God; 'Do not worship false idols.'
 - By praying in front of a picture or statue they are praying to an imitation of God rather than God Himself.
 - They might give people the wrong ideas about God by mistaking the image for the real thing.
- Influence of the Incarnation-
 - God has taken on limitations of the human form and so it is appropriate to show God as human.
 - While we do not know exactly what Jesus looked like the many representations of Him shows his qualities.



- God came to earth for all people; it is reasonable to show him as any ethnicity.
- Art can show people spiritual ideas of God's work. It can help focus prayer and inspire people.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- CCC 2132- Whoever worships an image, worships the person depicted in it.
- Sacrosanctum Concilium 122- Artwork can help turn people's minds directly to God,

Questions:

1. Do you agree that God can be depicted in artwork? Justify your answer.

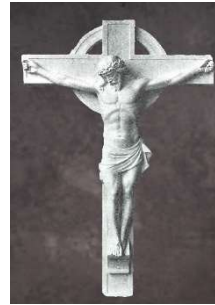
Statues of Jesus



- Christ the Redeemer- This statue sits overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro and was paid for by the Catholic population; it reminds people of the continuing love of God; this is shown by Jesus'

outstretched arms. No one is excluded from God's arms.

- Sacred Heart- the holes in his hand show where he was nailed to the cross. One hand points inward to emphasise his heart, which is pierced to symbolise the events of His death and the flames around the heart show His burning love for all. There is a crown of thorns to remind us of his death.



- Crucifix- This is a reminder of Jesus' pain and suffering. His death freed all people from sin, so it reminds us of the love God poured out in Jesus. There are many varieties of crucifix that emphasise different things. Some emphasise his dead body, while others have him wrapped in kingly robes showing the eternal victory he gained in his death.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Colossians 1:15- Jesus is the image of the invisible God.

Questions

1. Which statue do you think would best aid prayer?

2. Why might some object to the use statues?

Moral Teachings of Jesus

- Beatitudes- Jesus is shown to be the new lawgiver; building on and perfecting the teachings Moses had already provided. He moves from focusing on God's will to attitudes we should develop towards others.
- Parable of the Sheep and the Goats- Tells people that we must care for those in need. Anyone that ignores the needs of others is not a true follower of Jesus. They will be rewarded or punished in the next life based on how they have acted.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 284- Those who want to be part of the Kingdom of God must look to the Beatitudes.

Questions:

1. What laws did Moses give?
2. Why do they consider Jesus to have perfected these laws?
3. Look up and summarise the two stories
 - a. Beatitudes- Matthew 5:1-12

b. Parable of the Sheep and the Goats- Matthew 25: 31-46

St. Irenaeus

- The incarnation does not just show God's love but it also shows the importance of the human race.
- The son was with the Father from the beginning.
- The Son, as the word, spoke through the OT prophets.
- It is through Jesus that we are able to receive God's grace.
- Jesus gives insight into what God the Father is like. The qualities we value in Jesus are also values in God.
- These qualities can be found in most people but Jesus shows them in their purest form.
- Jesus is the perfect human being; he sets an example that we should all follow.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- John 1:1-3
- John 14: 9- 'Whoever has seen me has seen the father'.
- Colossians 1: 15- He is the image of the invisible God.

Questions:

1. Why is tradition important to Catholics?

2. What is the relationship between the Father and the Son? (link to Triune God)

Different Understandings of the Incarnation

- Fully God and Fully Human- to focus too much on Jesus being God or human is a heresy. Although the idea that he is fully God and human is difficult to understand.
- Dei Verbum 4 - God is revealed in Jesus; his death defeats sin and brings salvation to all. Jesus is also a man sent to be among his people.
- Verbum Domini 12- God deliberately limited himself so humans could make sense of His love. "The eternal word became small- small enough to fit in a manger". Jesus would always do God's will no matter what it cost him.

Grace and the Sacraments

- The incarnation is the ultimate sign of God's grace. He gave his son as a sign of his eternal acceptance of humanity.

Sacrament	Action	Symbolism/effect	Words
Baptism	the pouring of water	the cleansing of sins	<i>'I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'</i>
Confirmation	the anointing of the forehead with chrism (holy oil)	receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit	<i>'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.'</i>
Eucharist	the receiving of the consecrated Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of Christ	receiving the fullness of Christ	<i>'This is my body. This is my blood.'</i>
Marriage	the consent	each partner accepting the other person as husband/wife for life	<i>'Will you, [full name], take [full name] here present as your lawful wedded husband /wife according to the rites of our Holy Mother the Church? 'I will.'</i>
Ordination	the laying on of hands and the anointing of the hands with chrism	conferring the dignity of the priesthood	<i>'Almighty Father, grant to this servant of yours the dignity of the priesthood.'</i>
Reconciliation	the laying on of hands	the passing on of God's power of forgiveness	<i>'I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'</i>
Sacrament of the sick	the anointing of the head and hands (the senses) with the oil of the sick	strengthening and forgiveness	<i>'Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up. Amen.'</i>

- Each sacrament is a moment of grace and allows them to become more aware of what God wants from them.
- Although Jesus is gone, the Holy Spirit continues to work in the hearts and minds of all believers.
- A sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace. Just as Jesus is the sacrament (sign) of God's presence on earth, the whole of reality can be seen as a sacrament of God's love. Because Jesus was in creation was in God's creation he made it holy.
- Each sacrament helps to build up the holiness of an individual; helping them to become a stronger witness to the love and presence of God.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 340- Grace is given to each person but we must choose to use it- God does not force us to.

Questions:

1. What is grace?
2. Research each sacrament and summarise how it strengthens a person's relationship with God. E.g. In Baptism a person becomes a child of God.

Imago Dei and Abortion

- In Genesis it states that we are all made in God's image.
- Annunciation- When Elizabeth heard Mary's arrival the child in her womb leapt. This is clear proof that life begins at conception.
- Abortion- because they believe that life begins at conception they are against abortion. Even those with disabilities are loved by God and made in His image.
- SPUC- the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is a pro-life organisation that campaigns to ban abortion or reduce the time it can take place.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Gaudium et Spes 51- From the moment of conception life should be guarded; abortion is an unspeakable crime.
- Evangelium Vitae 39- Life comes from God and so, man cannot do what he wants with this life.
- Mother Teresa- Considers abortion to be a war against the child. It is the killing of an innocent child and considers it to murder.

Questions:

1. What is abortion?
2. What is the U.K. law on abortion?
3. Do you agree with the Catholic approach to abortion? Justify this answer.

Exam Practice

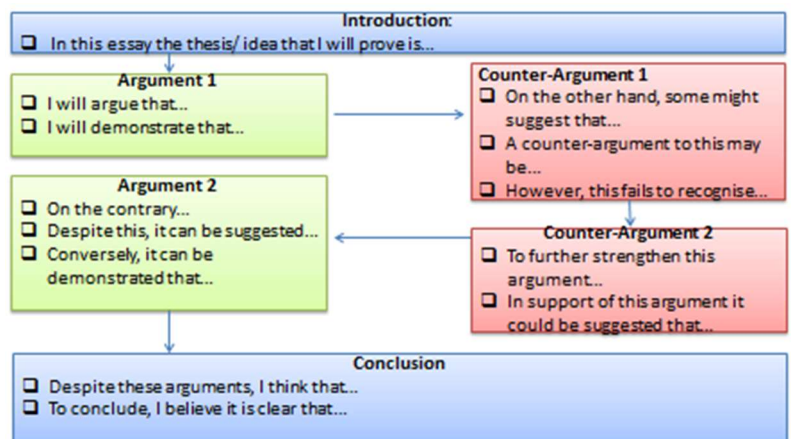
1. Give two teachings from the Bible that show that God is in the incarnate son. (2)
2. Give two Catholic teachings that show their approach to abortion. (2)
3. Give two of Irenaeus' teachings that show understanding of the incarnation. (2)
4. Explain two of Jesus' moral teachings. (2)

- 5. Give two ways in which the belief that humans are imago dei influences catholic understandings about abortion. (4)
- 6. Give two examples of how symbols can represent Catholic beliefs about the incarnation. (4)
- 7. Explain two ways Irenaeus influences beliefs about the Incarnation. (4)
- 8. Explain two ways that the Bible influences the belief that Jesus is both fully God and fully human. (4)
- 9. Explain two ways in which Jesus is the fulfilment of the law. Refer to Christian teaching in your answer. (5)
- 10. Explain two ways the Jesus is shown as God the gospels. Refer to Catholic teaching in your answer. (5)
- 11. Explain how the documents put forward by the Magisterium expresses the belief that Jesus was fully God and fully human. (5)
- 12. 'It is impossible for Christians to follow Jesus' example and moral teachings.' Evaluate this statement. (12)

- 13. Christians should not depict Jesus in art forms.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
- 14. 'Matthew's account of the virgin birth is easier to understand than Luke's story of the annunciation.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
- 15. 'It is impossible for Jesus' followers to live by the Beatitudes today.' Evaluate this statement. (12)

Create your own exam questions...

- How does X influence Y? (4)
- Explain 2 ways in which.... Might influence...(4)
- Explain how expresses beliefs about..... (5)



Exam Skills

OR

Intro: In this essay I am going to agree/disagree with the statement...

ACR 1

The first argument to support my thesis is...

Others would argue against this by saying...

I don't accept this counter-argument because...

ACR 2

Furthermore, I would argue that...

Again, others would disagree because...

However, their arguments are not good arguments because...

Conclusion: Overall, I think that...