

NAME: _____

RE TEACHER _____

AQA RELIGIOUS STUDIES

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY

This script is to be used to help in lessons and to help with revision in the lead up to assessments.

It can be taken home ahead of exams, but it must be returned and stored inside the assessment folder.

When highlighting, try and establish a process of highlighting key aspects such as key words, religious references and key facts. It may help to use different colours for each.

Links to other units:

Incarnation - Imago Dei and abortion

Trinity - God creates (Father) and says 'Let there be light' (Word) 'hovered over the waters' (Spirit)

Redemption - Cosmic Restoration (Jesus is the Atonement) St Irenaeus - 'meeting point' for us and God

Relationships - 'Be fruitful and multiply' (marital, unitive, and procreative)

War and Peace - Stewardship and Laudato Si – Nuclear weapons cause harm and destruction

UNIT: CREATION

BELEIFS, TEACHINGS AND SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

1. The Bible is the sacred book of Christianity. It contains different types of writing – historical accounts, poems and letters, which were written for different audiences and purposes.
2. The first part of the Bible is the Old Testament. It describes how God guided the Jews throughout their early history before the arrival of Jesus. It contains four main sections – Law, History, Wisdom and prophecy.
3. The second part of the Bible is the New Testament, this deals with the life and teachings of Jesus and his apostles. It can be split into four main sections – The Gospels, The Acts of the Apostles, The Epistles and The Book of Revelation.
4. The Bible is the Word of God; it reveals God to humans and teaches them about God and what he wants for humanity.
5. The writers of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
6. The Bible should be interpreted through the teachings of the magisterium.
7. The Catholic Church teaches that the Genesis creation stories should not be interpreted literally. This means that Catholics can accept scientific explanations for how the universe was created.
8. Some Christians (fundamentalists) believe the Genesis creation stories should be interpreted literally, and that the universe was created in six days.

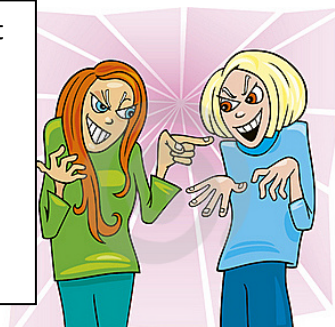
Fiona Fundamentalist

Fundamentalist Christians believe we shouldn't interpret the Bible in the light of today and its scientific claims.

Among their main beliefs are:

- 1 The Bible is God's Word and so is true and accurate
- 2 God informed humanity of His truth
- 3 God is all-loving, He won't mislead His people
- 4 We've no right to prefer our own interpretations

Lucy Liberalist



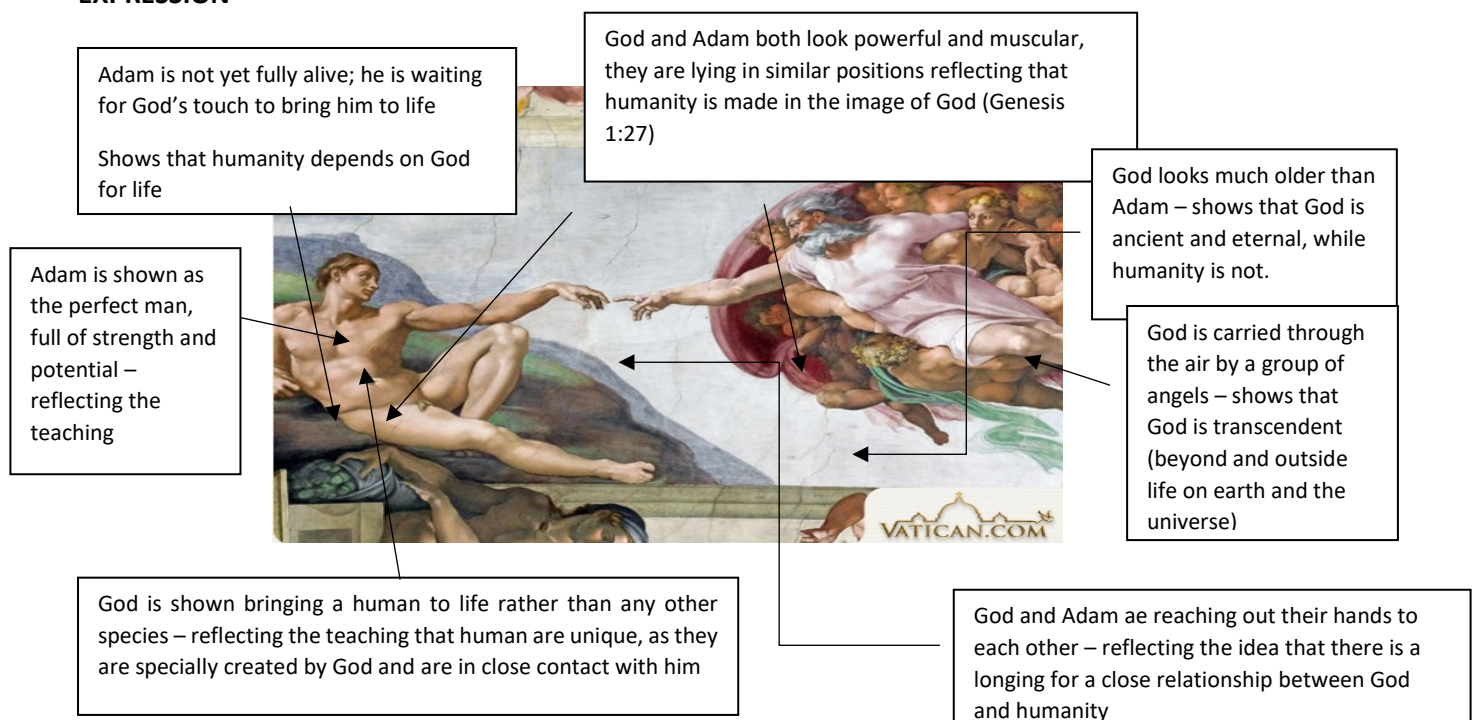
Liberalist Christians believe the truths of scripture, but interpret the stories and messages for today.

9. Genesis 1 teaches about the nature of God
10. **God as Creator** – God is the only creator, who has created everything. This is significant for Christians because it means they should only worship one God.
11. All of creation is special, because it has been created by God. Therefore, it should be cared for and looked after

<u>Genesis 1 (c.450 BC)</u>	<u>Genesis 2 (c.950 BC)</u>
7 Day Creation Story A poem showing God's omnipotence ('Let there be...') and His transcendence. Everything is good, and comes to exist because God commands it. God loves His creation. Not necessarily a scientific account – gives 'why' instead of 'how'. Humans are last to be created, showing their importance. Also 'God created humankind in his image' (Gen 1:27).	Adam and Eve Creation Story Written earlier than Genesis 1. It's a narrative, rather than a poem. It shows man as important through God breathing life (ru'ach = spirit) into man. Eve is made from man – they are complementary. All humans need is provided and God gives them free will, with the proviso that they shall not choose to eat from the forbidden tree. God makes animals but gives Adam role of naming them. Humans have authority and responsibility (dominion/ stewardship) over creation.

12. Genesis 1; 27 shows that God created humans in his own image, which means that humans share qualities with God (love and compassion). These qualities allow humans to have close relationship with God.
13. **God is omnipotent** – God has the power to do whatever he wants; he even creates out of nothing (**ex nihilo**).
14. Genesis 1;31 says everything God made is very good; God is so powerful he can make everything exactly the way he wants it.
15. **God is transcendent** - God only needs his own word in order to create; when he says 'Let there be...' that thing immediately comes into being. God is completely above and beyond the created world. God is beyond human understanding as He exists outside of time and space.
16. Genesis 2 teaches that Humans share the Spirit of God and are given the gift of free will
17. Genesis 2:8 explains how God made humans in his image. God created Adam, the first man, by breathing into him. The Hebrew word for 'breath' is ru'ach, this shows that humans share the spirit of God.
18. Christians believe Genesis 2 shows that God has given humans free will. Free will doesn't mean that the humans can do whatever they like without consequences. Christians believe that using free will to sin results in turning away from God, and this is why evil exists in the world. Using free will to live in a way that pleases God brings humans closer to God.

EXPRESSION





Elizabeth Wang's Heart of God

The three persons could be symbolic of the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). They look into the world with open arms (**omnibenevolent**). The three persons are outside of the cosmos (time and space) showing **transcendence**. They are depicted in fire representing the Spirit. The three figures have no faces which could be an improvement on Michelangelo as this does not limit God. However, Elizabeth Wang does not draw people so it could be argued that it does not symbolise our relationship with God as clearly. The background is clear in both paintings possibly symbolising nothing to remind us that God creates out of nothing (**ex nihilo**).

IMPACT AND PRACTICE

19. Natural law refers to the moral principles and values that are thought to be inherent to all humans
20. Natural law states that Catholics should do good and avoid evil. They should respect the sanctity of life.
 - a. Preservation of Life – (abortion and euthanasia off limits)
 - b. Orderly living in society – (respecting human dignity and the common good - Catholic Social Teaching)
 - c. Worship: (finding truth – faith, pursuit of knowledge, searching for God)
 - d. Education - Nurturing of the young – common to all creatures
 - e. Reproduction – (contraception off limits – implications for same sex couples)
21. The Catholic Church teaches that science and religion need to support and work with each other.
22. **Magisterium** Between 1962-1965, the Pope and the Bishops held a series of meetings to talk about the important issues and update the Catholic Church's teachings – these meetings are known as the Second Vatican Council. The council stressed that religion and science support each other:
"if methodically investigation...is carried out in a genuinely scientific manner ... it never truly conflicts with faith" Gaudium et Spes 36
23. The idea that Catholics have a duty to look after the environment on God's behalf is known as stewardship

In Genesis 1:28, mankind is given dominion over creation, meaning he is the highest point but also a protector.

Genesis 2:15 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.'

In Laudato Si 78, Pope Francis says, 'A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our power.' We must protect the world for 'future generations'

24. Catholics can help to protect the environment at local, national and global levels.
 - Local level – recycle, use public transport, environmental projects, educate others
 - National level - pressure on politicians to support laws that protect the environment, put pressure on companies to follow environmentally friendly policies.
 - Global level – boycott or help to expose international companies that threaten the environment, pressure on government to support environmental issues.
25. Pope Francis calls for a poor-centric approach in politics and economics, to improve all life; Pope Francis also teaches to share ideas and sustainable fishing & farming techniques
26. Laudato Si 159: 'the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others.'
27. **Sustainability** means living in a way that respects the environment and its natural resources
28. For Catholics, living sustainably respects God's creation and helps them to be good stewards of the earth.
29. **CAFOD** is a catholic Charity that **supports sustainability**, mainly through helping those in poverty to improve the quality of their lives in a sustainable way.



Key words

Adam	Hebrew word for humanity; name given to first man in the creation story.
Almighty	Title for God; all powerful (omnipotent).
Bible	Sacred book of Christianity made up[of Old (before Christ) and New (after Christ) Testaments.
Creator	The one who makes things and brings things about.
Creation	The act by which God brought the universe into being.
Dignity	Being worthy of honour and respect.
Free will	Belief that God gives people the opportunity to make decisions for themselves; choice between right and wrong, good and evil.
Fundamentalist	Someone who believes the Bible is a factual record.
Genesis	First book of the Bible in which the creation stories are found.
Holy Spirit	Third Person of the Holy Trinity; inspiring presence of God in the world.
Inspiration	The guidance that God gives to people.
Liberalist	Person who believes the bible has to be interpreted to apply its message to a modern context, the bible is not a factual record.
Magisterium	Teaching authority of the church – the Pope and the bishops.
Myth	Story that conveys a deep truth or message, not in a literal way.
Natural Law	Moral principles and values that are inherent in all human beings
Omnipotent	All powerful.
Sanctity of life	All life is holy as it is created and loved by God; human life should not be misused or abused.
Second Vatican Council	A series of important gatherings of all the Catholic bishops between 1962 and 1965 which updated many Catholic teachings.
Stewardship	Believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.
Transcendent	Outside of time and space.