

Name: .....

**Philosophy and Ethics  
OCR  
GCSE**

**The End of Life  
Philosophy 1- B601**



## Module B601 : Philosophy 1

### Section C: The end of Life

You will need to show knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs, teachings and attitudes on:

#### ■ Body and Soul

- The concept of the Soul (what it is)
- The relationship between the body and soul (are they one unit or two different things – what happens to both when someone dies etc.)

#### ■ Life After death

- The concept of life after death (what happens when people die)
- Christian believes about:
  - Heaven
  - Hell
  - Purgatory
  - Salvation
  - Redemption
  - The Suffering of Christ
  - God as judge
  - Relationship between God the judge, life on earth and the afterlife (in other words how do these beliefs affect the way a Christian lives)

#### ■ Christian funeral rites

- Funeral Rites (the ceremonies which happen at a funeral)
- The ways funeral rites reflect belief and aim to support the bereaved

### Trigger Words:

“**Beliefs**” - this is what Christians believe about their religion based on the teachings in the Bible and/or from the Church; for instance, ideas about God and Jesus; such as why Jesus had to die on the cross, etc.

“**Teachings**” - refers to rules/quotes/sayings from the Bible (such as “*do not murder*” or “*love thy neighbour*”) or it could refer to what the different Churches teach.

“**Attitudes**” - are the ways in which a believer interprets those beliefs and teachings. Note this is a trigger word for you to realise that some Christians believe one thing and other Christians believe another.

For example, some Christians think that when you die you have to wait until Judgement Day before it is decided whether you go into heaven or hell because of the parable of the Sheep and the Goats. On the other hand, others believe you can go to heaven straight away because when Jesus was on the Cross he told one of the robbers that “today you will be in paradise”.

“**Support**” – this means you cannot just make a statement and leave it there. You need to explain why that statement is being used. “Christians think that heaven is a lovely place “because Jesus described it as paradise”.

“**Respond**” – this word is asking you to think about what Christians would do when faced with a particular situation

## DICTIONARY

The starred words\* here are found in the OCR specification and so can appear as part of an exam question. A few more have been added but it is important you learn most of them in order to impress the examiners

<b>AFTERLIFE</b>	This word means the life which happens after death. A Christian believes there is heaven or hell whereas someone who does not believe in God may say there is no afterlife.
<b>*BEREAVED</b>	This word means the people who are sad about someone who has just died
<b>*BODY</b>	This is the physical part of a person (the shell) in which the soul lives while the person is on earth.
<b>*FUNERAL RITES</b>	These words mean the ceremonies which take place when someone dies
<b>*HEAVEN</b>	This is the place where Christians hope to go after death to be with God
<b>*HELL</b>	This is the place where people do not want to go because it is where the devil is and where people will be tortured forever.
<b>*JUDGE</b>	Christians believe that God/Jesus is a Judge because he looks at people's actions during their lifetime to decide whether they should go to heaven or hell
<b>*PURGATORY</b>	This is the place before heaven where Catholics believe everyone has to go to have their sins cleansed before they can enter heaven.
<b>*REDEMPTION</b>	This is the action of being saved from sin or evil.
<b>REPENT</b>	This word means that someone says sorry and shows they are sorry by trying to put their sin right and by not doing the sin again. Christians believe God forgives people who repent.
<b>*SALVATION</b>	This means being delivered from sin and its consequences – when Adam and Eve disobeyed God it brought sin into the world and its consequence is death (both physically and spiritually).
<b>SOUL</b>	This is the non material/spiritual part of a person (it cannot be seen) which makes the person what they are. Christians believe it is the “breath of life” which God gave Adam when he created him to make him a “living being”. The soul is eternal.

## B601 – Philosophy 1 – Section C: The End of Life

<p><b>Christians believe that there is life after death:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If they are good they will go to heaven when they die but if they are bad they will go to hell (parable of sheep and goats/parable of rich man and Lazarus)</li></ul> <p>They have these beliefs because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the death and resurrection of Jesus was a sign from God saying that man's sins were forgiven – Jesus' death conquered evil</li><li>• the resurrection of Jesus (the empty tomb) showed that if men <b>repent</b> and follow God they can go to heaven</li><li>• The Bible tells them that death and sin entered the world because Adam &amp; Eve disobeyed God – yet the death of Jesus re-opened the door to heaven</li><li>• <b>Judgement Day</b> – Jesus will return (<i>Parousia</i>) and will judge people on how they have lived their lives to determine whether they go to heaven or hell</li></ul> <p><b>What happens at death?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some Christians believe that if God lets them they will go to heaven immediately</li><li>• Either the soul or the soul and body goes to heaven or hell</li><li>• Some believe they have to wait until Judgement Day (the <i>Parousia</i>) when Jesus will return to judge people</li></ul>	<p><b>Heaven and Hell</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Heaven</b> is traditionally seen as a physical place where God is. Christians believe they will meet up with relatives &amp; friends. Jesus called it 'Paradise' or "<i>my father's house</i>" a '<i>mansion with many rooms</i>') or it can be seen as "being with God" (modern view).</li><li>• <b>Book of Revelation</b> (last book in the Bible) calls it a "new earth" where there will be no more tears &amp; suffering – God will rule on earth</li><li>• <b>Hell</b> can be an actual place of "a lake of everlasting fire", "torment and suffering" (<i>Parable of Rich Man &amp; Lazarus</i>) where Satan lives.</li><li>• <b>Or</b> it can be on earth when man is separate from God – a state of unhappiness and sin (modern view).</li><li>• <b>Purgatory</b> (Catholic view) is the place before heaven where people go to have their sins cleansed. People say prayers for souls to be released from Purgatory. In the Middle Ages people paid money to the church so that their sins would be forgiven and they would spend less time in Purgatory.</li></ul>
--	--

## B601 – Philosophy 1 – Section C: The End of Life continued

### The Soul

- Is the “*breath of life*” which God gave Adam when he created Adam from dust to make him a “living being”.
- The soul is what makes human beings special/separate from all the rest of creation. Some believe the soul makes people moral beings (it is their conscience)
- It returns to heaven/God after death.
- The soul is eternal (it never dies)
- Some Christians believe a new soul is created for each new life which God creates
- While other Christians believe that the soul is a part of the original soul which God gave Adam.

### What goes to heaven?

- Some Christians believe the whole body & soul goes up to heaven (so cremation is not allowed)
- Some Christians believe it is only the soul which goes up to heaven (so cremation is allowed)
- Some Christians believe in the teachings of St. Paul that they will get a new spiritual body when they get to heaven

### The Suffering of Christ

Christians believe that God came down in human form (the incarnation) as his only son Jesus Christ in order to redeem (save people) from sin and evil. The only way Jesus could do that was to suffer and die on the cross:

- Once Adam and Eve had let sin into the world mankind needed someone to redeem them – someone to save them – to take on their sins to free them from evil and death – this could only be Jesus
- When Jesus was whipped and mocked with the crown of thorns he was taking on the sins of the world – he was paying the ransom
- The events of Jesus’ suffering were prophesied by the prophet Isaiah (in the Old Testament)
- Jesus’ suffering shows people just how much God loves them – “for God so loved the world ...”
- Jesus’ voluntary suffering shows that he is the son of God – the Centurion said when Jesus died “surely this man was the son of God” (Matthew 27:54).

## B601 – Philosophy 1 – Section C: The End of Life continued

**Parables** which show Christian beliefs about life after death:

- The parable of the *Sheep and the goats* show that Jesus will judge people on Judgement Day and those who have looked after the poor etc. will go to heaven & those who have not will be separated from God forever
- The parable of the *Rich Man and Lazarus* shows that the bad will be punished and will be separated from God forever
- The parables of the *Lost Son & the Lost Sheep* shows that God is forgiving if someone truly repents

The Miracle when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead is when Jesus tells people that “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies”

**The Funeral service** shows Christian beliefs of life after death through:

- **Flowers** – which show the beauty of heaven/after-life
- The words “*I am the resurrection and the life*” showing those who follow Jesus will live again in heaven after death. These are said at the beginning of the ceremony. Jesus said them when he raised Lazarus from the dead.
- The words “*dust to dust*” show that the earthly body returns to dust – God created Adam from dust. Sometimes people throw handfuls of dust onto the coffin as it is lowered into the ground.
- The symbol of the empty **Cross**, which shows that Jesus has risen
- The **Eulogy** is when people give speeches to celebrate the person’s life
- **Prayers** are said to ask God to look after the person in heaven and to thank God for that person’s life. The smoke from the **candles** takes these prayers to heaven.
- **Readings** from the Bible such as Revelation (the new heaven and earth) or the raising of Lazarus show the bereaved that their loved one is with God.
- **Balloons** are sometimes released to show that the soul is going to heaven

Christians should not be frightened of death because death is not a full stop but a comma. They believe that to get to heaven they must:

- Follow the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus; do good deeds
- “Love Thy Neighbour” – look after the poor (Parable of the Sheep and the Goats)
- Confess their sins and forgive others (the Lord’s Prayer).
- Become a witness to Christianity – be baptised/confirmed.

# Death and the Afterlife

## The Soul

When God made man in the beginning he *breathed* into him. This is a special kind of life which is different to animals.

**SCS** that your body is separate from you soul.

**SCS** that your soul is a part of you that defines what you really are. It makes the choices between right and wrong.

**SCS** your soul needs a body so you get a new body after death.

## Funerals

Provide comfort support and hope of a future life after death.

Roman Catholics will pray for the soul of the dead person. Prayers of thanks will be said for the person who has died.

The funeral reflects the idea that all life is given by God and only God can take it away.

Funerals often reflect the beliefs of Christian denominations.

## Heaven, Hell and Purgatory

Most Christians say there will be some kind of Judgement after death where God will decide where you will spend your afterlife.

**Heaven** is a paradise where you live forever with God.

**Hell** a place of destruction and pain where the Devil is punished.

**Purgatory** a middle place of penance.

**SCS** all people go to heaven, because God is loving.

**SCS** the worst people go to Hell, everyone else pays for their sins in Purgatory. When they have paid for their sins they go to Heaven.

Roman Catholics believe this this is why they pray for the dead.

**SCS** (fundamentalists) that everyone goes to Hell apart from the true believers in God.

**SCS** = Some Christians Say  
**LYN** = "Love Your Neighbour"

Evidence	Description of Evidence	Flaws
<b>Ghosts (Paranormal Activities)</b>	People see the <b>deceased</b> , normally in a form, which allows the ghost to go against the rules of <b>physics</b> . The <b>ghost</b> can tell us things beyond the <b>grave</b> . Very often, the ghosts talk to their <b>loved</b> ones to talk about what happened and the <b>afterlife</b> .	Witness is <b>unreliable</b> as they let their <b>superstitions</b> and <b>imagination</b> rule.
<b>Past life memories/ Reincarnation</b>	Appeared to have <b>knowledge from past lives</b> , which is hard to explain. Very often this can be in the form of ' <b>Déjà Vu</b> '. With <b>reincarnation</b> , you can <b>sense</b> the same character or <b>personality</b> a <b>deceased</b> being had, and you <b>link</b> it often with an <b>animal</b> or other <b>object</b> .	<b>Coincidence</b> . People rarely claim to be an <b>insignificant person</b> .
<b>Mediums (Séances)</b>	Ouija boards give some people reasons to believe that the spirits, or souls, of the dead live on. Mediums claim <b>evidence</b> for life after death by <b>contacting people's dead relatives</b> and telling them things only their relatives could know. Give some people reasons to believe that <b>the spirits, or souls, of the dead live on</b> .	Mediums are <b>con artists</b> on the gullible who wish to believe they are in a 'better place'.
<b>Near Death Experiences (NDEs)</b>	When people claim to have near-death experiences when they are classed as clinically dead for a short period then revived. They often describe feelings of peace; out of body experiences; seeing a bright light; and even meeting deceased relatives.	It is simply a creation of the mind 'shutting down' based on desire. Can be analysed to be hallucinations, and accounts of bright lights/tunnels = body closing down or effect of drugs.



## The Body and Soul

- Christians believe that **the soul is the non-physical part** of a person and the **body is the physical part**. The soul makes each person **unique** from every other.
- Christians believe that **all humans have an immortal soul**; this part does **not die** when the physical body dies, but **lives on for eternity** and goes with them to heaven.
- Christians believe that **the soul is “the breath of life”**, which **God gave to Adam**.
- Many Christians believe that it is **the soul that makes humans like God**, which fits in with the concept of humans being created in God’s image. The **soul** is the spiritual part of humans that **connect us to God**.
- For Christianity, it is the soul that separates humans from animals. **Most Christians do not believe that animals have souls**, because only Adam received the breath of life from God.
- **Some Christians**, such as **St Francis of Assisi**, disagreed with this view, maintaining that animals did have souls.
- **The early prominent Christian, St Paul** referred to the **conflict** between our **physical bodies**, which may be tempted into sin, and our **spiritual bodies** [i.e. our souls], which want to **please God**.
- **Christians do not believe in reincarnation**, accepting that we have **only one life on earth** and that life after death is not a physical world. However, they also believe that there will be a **Day of Judgement** where there will be a **resurrection of the body** and **everyone will be judged by God** on the basis of their actions and faith on earth.

### Key Biblical Passages

<b>Genesis 1: 26-27</b>	God made humans in his own image.
<b>Genesis 2: 7</b>	God gives Adam “the breath of life”
<b>Romans 7: 21-22</b>	St Paul talks about the conflict between our physical and spiritual bodies.
<b>1 Corinthians 3: 16-17</b>	St Paul emphasises that the spiritual body is “God’s temple” and therefore sacred.
<b>1 Corinthians 15: 42-44</b>	St Paul indicates that, upon death, the physical body is “perishable” and dies, whilst the spiritual body is “imperishable” and will live on.

## Heaven, Hell & Purgatory

- Christians believe that they will be **judged on their faith and actions on earth**. Some believe that this judgement takes place as soon as someone dies; others believe that there will be a Day of Judgement, linked to the second coming of Jesus, known as the 'Parousia'.
- Christians believe that those who have been **faithful to the teachings of Jesus**, accepting him as their saviour through his crucifixion and resurrection, will go to **heaven**.
- Other Christians believe that **God is such an omnibenevolent being** that he will **forgive everyone their sins** and accept them into heaven.
- **Roman Catholic Christians** believe that there is a place called **Purgatory**, where their **souls are cleansed** of sins committed on earth until they are pure enough to enter heaven. **Purgatory is not a place of judgement** and people go from purgatory to heaven, but never from there to hell.
- There are different views about **the nature of heaven**, with some believing it to be a **physical place** and others seeing it as a **state of mind** in oneness with God. There is agreement that heaven will lead to a **perfect, eternal state with no pain or suffering**.
- The views of **hell** have changed over the centuries. **Traditional teaching described it as a place of fire and torture**. The 14<sup>th</sup> Century Italian writer, **Dante** referred to the **Nine Pits of Hell**, in each of which a different kind of sinner is punished.
- Most Christians now describe hell as a state of mind, characterised by the absence of God.

### Key Biblical Passages

<i>1 Corinthians 15: 51-52</i>	Teaching about the Day of Judgement
<i>Ezekiel 1: 25-28</i>	The vision of God's throne in Heaven.
<i>Matthew 25: 31-46</i>	The Parable of the Sheep & the Goats, indicating the reward for good deeds.
<i>Luke 16: 19-31</i>	The Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus, emphasising how we will be judged on how we treat those in need.

## Salvation, Redemption & Judgement

- Christians believe that **humanity received redemption** through the **sacrifice of Jesus** on the cross. Redemption means that **humans have been saved**, the price for which was Jesus' suffering and death.
- This redemption has opened up the **possibility of reaching heaven**.
- The concept of **salvation** is very similar; it means that **Jesus saved people from the consequences of sin**.
- In order to reach heaven, Christianity teaches that **people will be judged by God** after death, based on the way in which they have lived their lives.
- There are **two kinds of judgement**:
  - **Particular Judgement** – the judgement given to every soul when a person dies;
  - **General Judgement**, which is also known as the **Last Judgement** – God passing his final sentence on the soul and body of each individual.
  - Christians believe that they will be judged on the **concern they show to others**. This is exemplified in the **Parable of the Sheep and the Goats**: those who care for others will receive eternal life, while those who ignore the suffering of others will be punished in hell.
  - Christians do not believe that they will be sent to hell if they fail to do right all the time, because **God is all-loving and forgiving**.
  - Christians believe that **they should live morally**, according to God's laws, seeking God's forgiveness if they do wrong.

### Key Biblical Passages

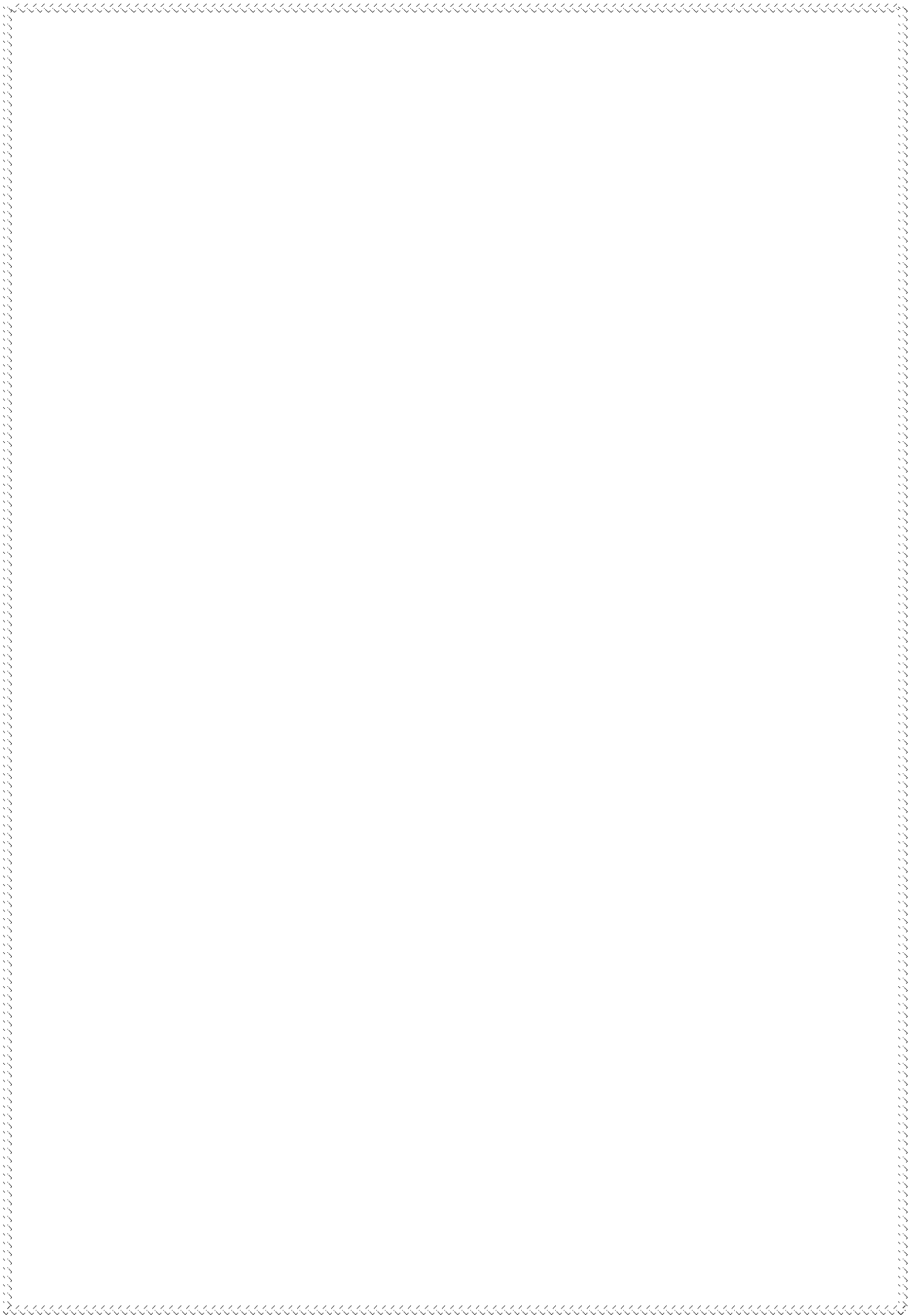
<b>Matthew 25: 31-46</b>	The Parable of the Sheep & the Goats
<b>John 20: 23</b>	Jesus gives his disciples the power to forgive sins.
<b>Romans 8: 1-3</b>	St Paul explains that Jesus was sent to save people.

## Christian Funeral Rites

- Everyone in England and Wales has **the right by law to have their funeral service in their parish church** or, if they prefer, to have a parish priest take a service at the local crematorium.
- **Funeral rites** are the **customs and traditions** associated with Christian funeral services. A Christian funeral service is based on the teachings in the Bible and reflects Christian views on God and the afterlife. Some **common elements** include:
  - A **Bible reading**, which focuses on the eternal life after death with God, such as John 11 or Psalm 23;
  - **Prayers** are said for **both the deceased** (the person who has died) and the **bereaved** (the family and friends left behind). The prayers for the deceased are designed to entrust the dead person to God's care and, in Roman Catholic funerals, to speed their journey through purgatory.
  - A **eulogy** is a speech given about the deceased's life and achievements.
  - In Roman Catholic funerals, a **special Mass is celebrated** to recall the death and resurrection of Jesus, bringing hope for eternal life after death;
  - The **commendation** is designed to recommend the soul of the deceased to God.
  - The **committal** is where the body is buried or cremated.
  - Christian funerals are designed to honour a life and to **commend the dead to God**, but also provide **support to the bereaved**.

### Key Biblical Passages

<b>John 11: 25-26</b>	Jesus proclaims that "I am the resurrection and the life".
<b>Psalm 23</b>	The Lord is my Shepherd
<b>1 Corinthians 15: 20-28</b>	St Paul explains that through belief in Jesus, people will be alive even after death.



## **B601 – Philosophy 1 – Section C – The End of Life**

### **Past Questions**

#### **Specimen**

- (a) What is death? [1]
- (b) What is meant by “soul”? [2]
- (c) What do Christians believe about life after death? [3]
- (d) How many Christian funeral rites reflect beliefs about life after death? [6]
- (e) “When people die that is the end”. Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [12]

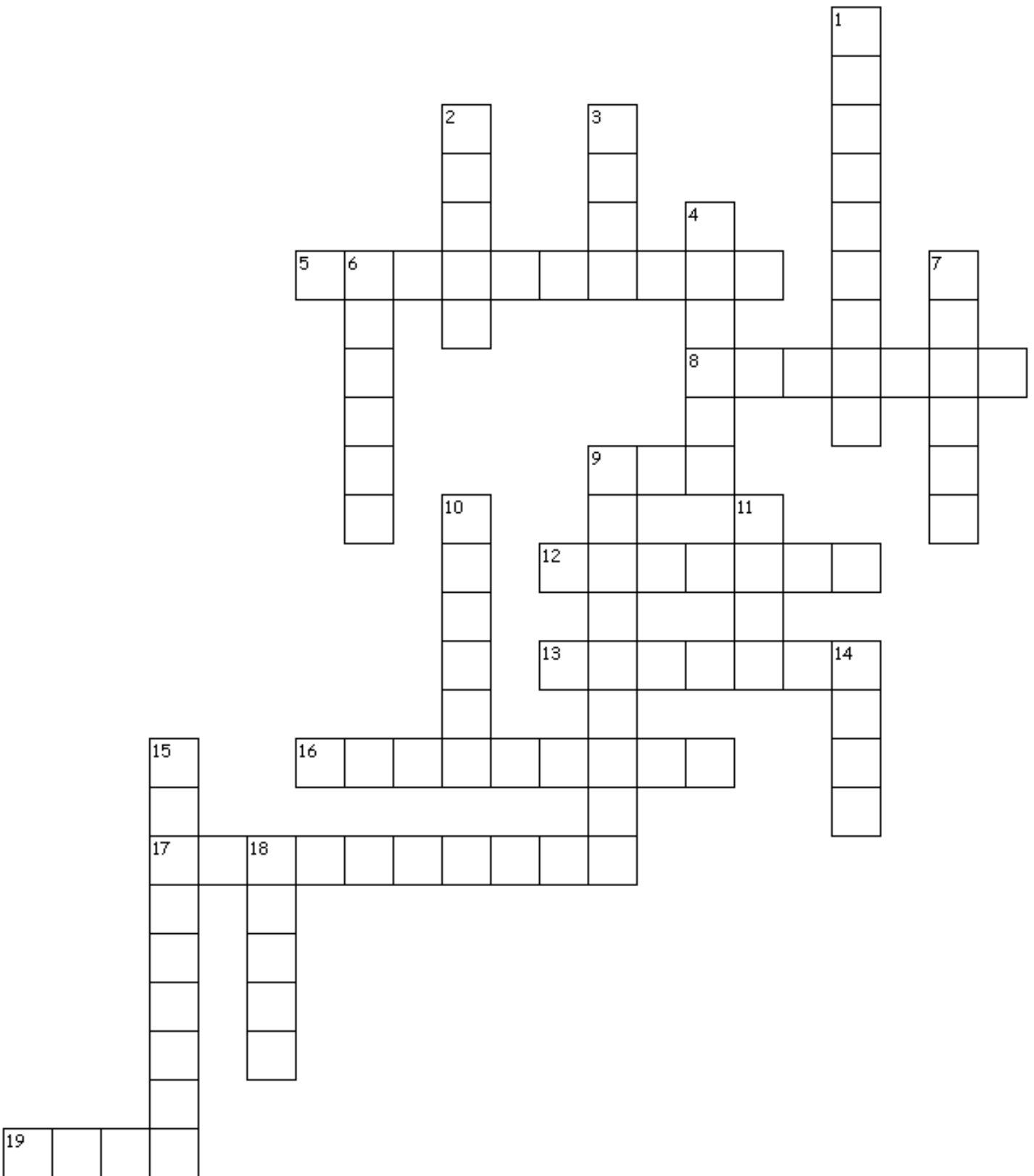
#### **2010**

- (a) What is the meaning of “rites”? [1]
- (b) Give **two** examples of Christian funeral rites. [2]
- (c) Describe the relationship between the body and the soul for a Christian. [3]
- (d) Explain how beliefs about life after death could affect a Christian’s more behaviour. [6]
- (e) “We only have one life and it is on earth”. Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [12]

#### **Attempt this question:**

- (a) What is meant by redemption? [1]
- (b) Give **two** Christian beliefs about the suffering of Christ. [2]
- (c) Describe Christian beliefs about what happens to a person when they die. [3]
- (d) Explain how a Christian funeral shows their beliefs about the end of life. [6]
- (e) “It does not matter how you live your life because there is no such place as heaven”. Discuss this statement. You should include different, supported points of views and a personal viewpoint. You must refer to Christianity in your answer. [12]

# End of Life



Clues on next page ...

## Across

5. This book in the Bible describes the new heaven and earth
8. This is the name of the ceremony given for someone who has died
9. This is what separates man from God
12. These represent the beauty of heaven at a funeral
13. The smoke from these carries prayers to heaven
16. This is when someone is burnt after they have died
17. This word means being saved from sin and evil
19. This is the physical part of someone

## Down

1. Adam and Eve did this when they ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil
2. These are the actions within a ceremony
3. Adam was made from this
4. This is the box in which someone who has died is brought to the funeral
6. This is special speech which celebrates the life of a dead person
7. This place has been described as paradise
9. This word means being saved
10. This word refers to the idea that Jesus paid this to save people from sin
11. This place has been described as a lake of fire
14. This is the spiritual part of someone
15. This is the place where Catholics believe you go to be cleansed of sin
18. This word means the end of physical life on earth

