

## Unit 2.2 Sin and Forgiveness

KEY WORD LIST for this unit:



### Component 2.2

Absolutism	the belief that there are certain actions that are always right or always wrong. The belief that moral laws exist eternally and are not just human inventions.
Eucharist	meaning "thanksgiving". The name Catholics use to describe the rite where the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus and is received by the people. Also the name for the real presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
Evangelisation	literally means spreading the "good news" which we translate as Gospel. The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.
Forgiveness	the act of pardoning someone for the offences they have caused you. Overlooking a person's faults.
Punishment	the consequences of a wrong decision and a penalty imposed by a person in authority on the person who has committed wrongdoing.
Relativism	the belief that there is no moral law and that rules that govern what is right and wrong are human inventions and change from place to place and from age to age.
Salvation	the belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of life forever with God.
Sin	acting against the will or laws of God.

**Crime** can be defined as an action that breaks the law. Laws are made by the government of a country and of course can change over time. Why do we have laws? → protect the weak, guide the public in acceptable behaviour & allow people to live safely & without fear.

**Crime and sin** are linked (for sin, see below): both concern what is right, good, wrong or bad. This is linked to morality, and there are 2 types: which are you most aligned towards? **Absolute morality:**

When a person upholds a certain principle, with no change to it e.g. 'stealing is wrong'. This would never change, regardless of the context or circumstance.

**Relative morality:** Where the moral principle is adapted in certain situations. E.g. stealing is wrong, but if someone needed to steal in order to feed his or her children in a time of famine, then stealing would be justifiable - it would preserve a life. Another example would be killing in self-defence.

**New information:**

What is sin? Use the pictures here to help you define it (5 minutes) → paired discussion





Sin = a religious word: to fall short or turn away from God, breaking God's will/rule/law by thought, word or deed.

Greek word for sin in the New Testament = 'hamartia': to miss a goal or target. To fall short of all we are called to be. We fall short of God's great hopes for us.

Next, revisit your notes on the punishment options available to a judge when punishing a criminal.

	Good things	Bad things about this	Is it effective at reducing crime?	Who is being thought of? Offender/victim/society?
Retribution				
Rehabilitation				
Deterrence				
Expiation				

Remember: REFORM of the criminal is the Christian aim of punishment. What does it mean and can you explain it?

**Q:** What think of Mizen's Research

CCC1443 'During his public life Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: he reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community of the people of God from which sin had alienated or even excluded them.'

do you Jimmy story?

'restorative justice' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5L7QPDnd8sQ> The Jimmy Mizen story

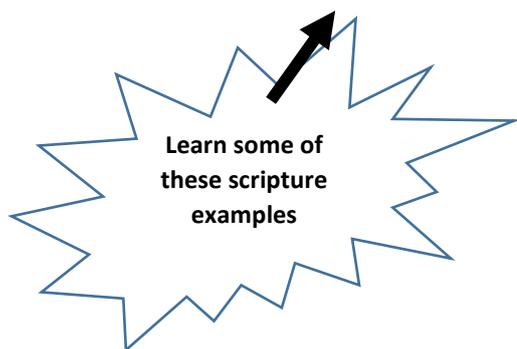
**Forgiveness:** This is the act of pardoning someone for the offences they have caused you. It involves overlooking a person's faults. Look at this quote from the Catechism. Jesus always, in every act of forgiveness

'reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community.' As you look at the **following examples of Jesus' teachings**, examine the message of Jesus, which shows Christians they should treat others with love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness.

Jesus' example	What Jesus teaches	What forgiveness means for a Christian
Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Mt18:21-22)	That we should forgive 'seventy-seven times'	Jesus is saying there is no limit to our forgiveness.
The Lord's Prayer	'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'	Christians cannot receive God's mercy if they do not first forgive others.
Mt5: 38-39 & Mt6:14-15 – look up and record quotes		A Christian should offer mercy and not retaliate. This takes more courage. If we do not forgive others, God cannot forgive us.
Woman caught in adultery Jn8:1-11	'go and sin no more'	We examine what Jesus did. He was merciful and saved this woman's life and she responded by turning her life around.
Parable of the Prodigal Son		The father forgave the son and welcomes him back, even though he had done wrong.
Jesus forgives on the cross	'Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.'	Jesus showed forgiveness in the last moments of his life. We are to follow this example. A good death.

**What did Jesus teach about forgiveness and justice?** Jesus taught about forgiveness and he spoke about justice. He spoke about God's punishment for wrongdoers in the next life. On judgement Day, God will judge all humans according to how they have behaved.

If they have behaved justly, they will be rewarded in heaven. Christians also believe God will judge and forgive those who are truly sorry for their actions. These souls will want to change. Christians believe God forgives everything that can be forgiven, but God cannot forgive that which a person does not recognise needs forgiveness. The Church teaches that the salvation, healing & forgiveness won by Christ needs to be accepted by us. Many Christians believe punishment and forgiveness can go together. Many Christians would want to see punishment as a way of reforming the criminal. Christians work to make society a fairer, better place, where people do not need to turn to crime.



### **Catholic teaching on Capital punishment:**

Some people think capital punishment (that which takes the life of the criminal) is good because it stops people committing serious crime and takes a life for a life. Other people will disagree because evidence shows it does not deter and innocent people can be put to death wrongly.

### **What does the Catholic Church say about the death penalty?**

1. The teaching has developed over time. The catechism says that if the person's guilt has been fully determined, then the 'teaching of the Catholic Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty.' (CCC2267).
2. St. Augustine emphasised the need to seek other punishments if at all possible in 2 separate letters 'we pity the person, but hate the offence... In fact, the more we dislike the vice in question, the less do we want the offender to die without correcting his vices... There is no space to reform character except in this life.'
3. Pope St John Paul II in Evangelium Vitae said capital punishment should be avoided unless it is the only way to defend society against an offender.

4. Pope Francis has stated he is against the death penalty because it is no longer justifiable and innocent people can be wrongly executed.

#### **Arguments for and against Capital punishment:**

Some Christians will believe the death penalty is acceptable because:

1. Jesus never taught it was wrong.
2. Old Testament supports it 'Life for life, eye for eye.'
3. It shows the commandment 'you shall not kill' is serious. To murder is a crime and death should be the punishment.
4. St Paul teaches you should follow the laws of your country, which may include the death penalty.
5. The Catholic Church still has teaching on this issue.
6. Some crimes are so awful that the only possible punishment is the death penalty.

#### **Arguments against the death penalty:**

1. A dead person cannot be reformed, so the death penalty is wrong.
2. 'Do not kill.' - to kill a person for a crime can never be right. 2 wrongs cannot make a right.
3. Jesus taught against the Old Testament practices of revenge: 'If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other also.'
4. All human life is sacred: only God can take away a human life.
5. Love & forgiveness (the central message of Christianity) are not possible with the death penalty.
6. The wrong person could be executed for the crime. Governments should defend all their people & therefore killing as a punishment is wrong.

**Task:** what do you think about capital punishment? Which sources of authority could you use in your arguments? What would a Humanist argue? (See point 6 above in 'against').

#### **What is the meaning and significance of salvation and the role of grace and free will?**

**NB:** You will need to study your book notes for this section.

Key concepts: reconcile /divine/salvation/redemption/paschal mystery.

Humans have rejected God by their sinfulness, but Jesus offers salvation and redemption. Jesus did this through his sacrifice, which replaced the animal sacrifices (see below).

John the Baptist calls Jesus 'the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.' His death on the cross ended the need for all other sacrifices, because he was divine, perfect and without sin. This sacrifice restored the relationship with God for all time. Jesus 'paid the price' for human beings. Humans could not do this themselves as they were sinners. He earned salvation by suffering this punishment on behalf of all humans. Christians believe he extends this salvation to all those who believe in him. So Jesus is the saviour of the world.



Christians experience this love and mercy of God through 'grace'. We most commonly and especially experience this through the sacraments, which are encounters of God's grace. Each sacrament is a call from God to live in ever deeper relationship with him.

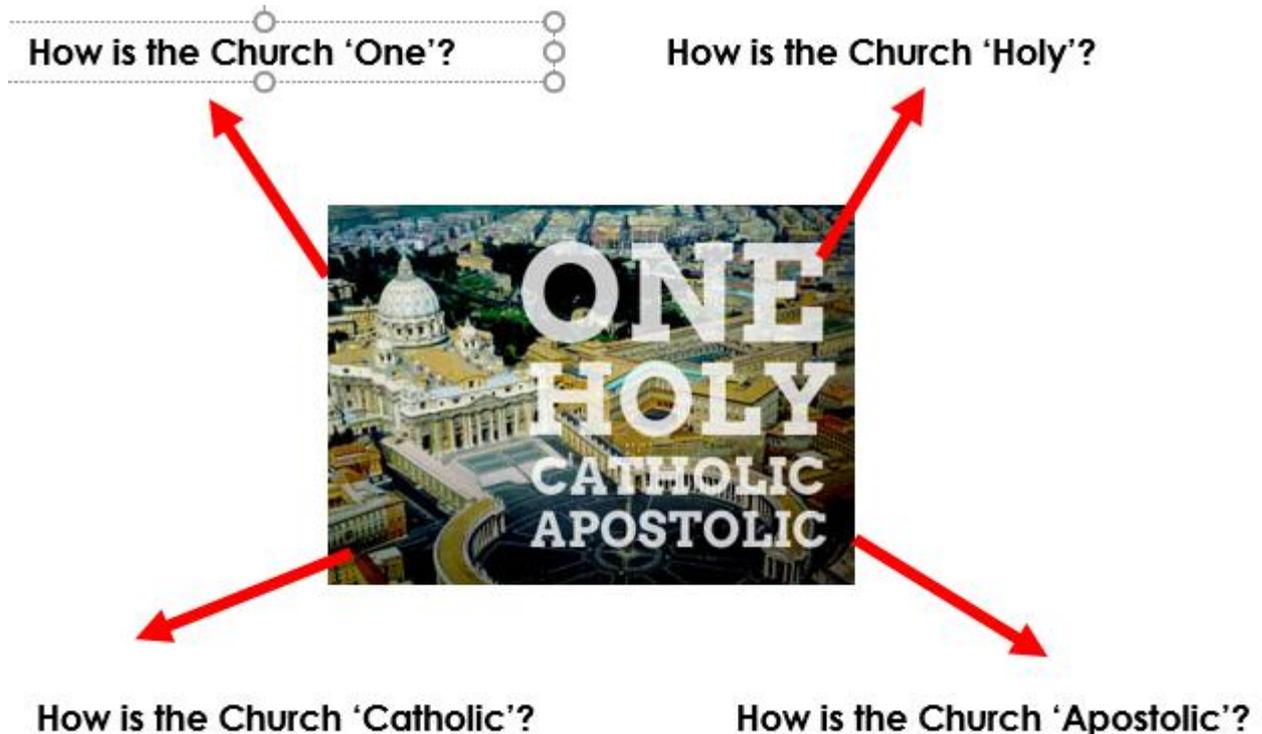
We also look at the last week of Jesus' life (the 'passion' = 'suffering'), called holy Week. Revisit your notes in your book to explore how these events led sinners back to God:

The Last Supper → Good Friday: arrest/trials/ crucifixion → Jesus' Resurrection & what it means for Christians → The Ascension & the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout all of the learning so far, we have seen and understood that a person freely chooses or rejects God. The existence of Hell and the concept of a loving God reveal a challenge for us in our understanding: God can only offer salvation to humanity. An individual can accept or reject that offer.

**Theme: The nature of the Catholic Church. Mary as a model of the church. The meaning of the phrase 'outside of the Catholic Church there is no salvation'**

The Nicene Creed of the 4<sup>th</sup> century identified 4 distinguishing qualities: **One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic**



**The Church is 'One' in 3 ways:**

- 1.** Because of the source of the Church: the Trinity - a perfect unity of 3 in 1.
- 2.** **Because Jesus came to unite all of humanity through his death on the cross** → *in deo* all one by taking our sins away.
- 3.** Because the soul of the Church (the Holy Spirit), lives in the souls of Catholics & unites us as believers in one church.

**How is the Church Holy?**

Jesus is the source of all holiness & it is through him the Church, all its works, all its people & all its worship is holy. Through baptism, our call to holiness is realised, as each person is freed from original sin. We acknowledge there are times we fall far short of this calling to holiness & in the Mass we pray @Look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church.'

**How is the Church Catholic?** The word 'Catholic' means 'universal' or 'whole' - it is universally present everywhere. Jesus gives the Church everything the people need for them to be saved.

**How is the Church Apostolic?** Jesus founded the Church & gave his 12 Apostles his authority. St Peter was given a special task - to act as Jesus' representative on earth. This faith has been handed down to the Pope and Bishops over time, to the present day (Apostolic Tradition & Apostolic Succession - see your Y9 work).



**Mary is:**

**Model of the Church...** this means, she has shown what it means to be Catholic through her

**Discipleship** - spent her whole life dedicated to Jesus. Accepted her calling to be the **Mother of God** willingly → role model to us.

**Faith** - followed Jesus to the foot of the cross & gave total faith in God and in her Son.

**Charity** - gave her whole life to God, showed kindness and compassion. **Wedding at Cana:** 'Do whatever he tells you.' This is our call.

How did she do these things?

She had a vital role in our salvation. Without her there would be no Incarnation! She acts as mediator. How else do Catholics honour Mary? Candles/statues/rosary.

**L13: To know the meaning and significance of the Church as the body of Christ and people of God To evaluate the meaning of the claim that 'outside the Church there is no salvation.'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fy74JvYpvXE>

What do Catholics mean when they say they are part of the body of Christ?

How does this affect what they do in the world?

What do Catholics mean when they say they are part of the body of Christ?	How does this affect what they do in the world?
<p>Catholics believe the work of Christ did not end with the Ascension. They believe Jesus lives on through his followers, and in the Church. Thus, Christ's work continues and the Church functions as his body, the 'body of Christ.'</p> <p>The Church offers a way of continuing what Jesus started. Christian people are now the physical body of Jesus as he is no longer physically present in the world.</p>	<p>Christians believe they must continue Jesus' physical work, giving help and teaching about him.</p> <p>Each person, just like each part of a body, has a different function and is used for the good of the body.</p> <p>The Church remains in unity because the whole people are working for Christ as his body.</p> <p>Eucharist is the heart of the faith for Catholics. The real presence of Christ in Holy Communion gives them strength to do their work for Jesus</p>

<http://request.org.uk/life/church/church-tours/>

Here are some questions I want you to know the answers to & many you will know already (hence it is a research task). The above website tour of a Catholic Church should help you, as should the diagram from the revision book.

1. Why are Catholic Churches oriented to the east?
2. How is stained glass used in churches?
3. Why do churches often have high ceilings, domes, towers and steeples?

4. How did church design change after Vatican II?
5. Why are many Catholic Churches cruciform?
6. What symbols are used to describe church buildings?
7. Explain how architecture of Catholic churches helps Catholics reflect on the mystery of salvation.

Sacraments of initiation	Description	The signs
Baptism		Pouring of <u>water</u>
Confirmation		Laying on of <u>hands</u> by the Bishop. Anointing on forehead with <u>oil</u> .
Eucharist		<u>Bread and wine</u>
Sacraments of healing	Description	The signs
Penance (confession)		<u>Confession</u> of sins. <u>Priest's words</u> .
Anointing of the sick		Anointing <u>with oil</u> . Laying on of <u>hands</u> .
Sacraments at the service of communion	Description	The signs
Matrimony		<u>Wedding rings</u> .
Holy Orders		Laying on of <u>hands</u> for priests, deacons, Bishop. <u>Anointing with oil for a priest by a Bishop</u> .

### What do Catholics believe about the Sacraments?

1. For Catholics, a Sacrament is 'an outward sign of inward grace, ordained by God, by which grace is given to the soul.'
2. Jesus, whilst on earth, was God made visible! They could touch, see, hear and listen to him. Jesus ascended to heaven & left the Church his body. How do we see, touch, hear and listen to him: through the sacraments.
3. Catholics believe all of creation reveals God! Every natural and human thing is a way for God to be experienced, and also a way for God to communicate with us.
4. The Sacraments enable us to experience God's nourishing, forgiving, healing, strengthening power in a special way → develop our relationship with God → become more like Jesus!

So.. the 'outward signs' are the ordinary things, which God transforms through the sacraments

e.g bread and wine/ Water → Through these, God makes them 'inward graces', blessings of a meeting with God. → List the 7 sacraments: notice in this film how they are ordered: initiation/healing/service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmfSwi3ZKH4>

### The importance of the Eucharist for Catholics:

If you saw this as a street sign, what would you think?  
 What do you think this means?  
 Do you hold it to be true?  
 How else can it be interpreted?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap1f1Tp6Pfs> radio

“Outside the Church there is no salvation”



Meaning 1: St. Cyprian – only Catholics will go to heaven.

Meaning 2: everyone is saved through Jesus’ death & resurrection...

Meaning 3: People who are not Catholics can be saved by God’s power, because the Church of Christ is wider than the Catholic Church.

Meaning 4: People who have lived good lives but who haven’t heard the Gospel of Jesus will ‘achieve eternal salvation.’

Constructing meaning:  
 Which of the 4 meanings is most like your own?  
 Which is least like your own?  
 Explain your views.

**Mission and Evangelisation for Catholics:**

Catholics celebrate the Eucharist most regularly of all the sacraments. We gather to remember the Lord’s supper. Each Sunday celebrates the power of Jesus’ resurrection and is a holy day. Catholics also have other Holy Days of Obligation. Attendance is obligatory (illness excepting). Mass is celebrated every day except Good Friday & Easter Saturday.

Eucharist = ‘the source & summit of the Christian life’ – through it we are unified to God. We become closer to God through receiving Jesus’ body and blood in communion.

What else do Catholics believe about Mass?

We are united into the body of Christ.  
 We become the body of Christ.  
 Mass is the highest form of prayer possible.

Catholics believe Christ is present in the Mass in these ways:

1. in the consecrated bread and wine, which transform into Jesus’ body and blood (transubstantiation).
2. The readings: esp. in the Gospels.
3. In the believers gathered ‘Where two or more are gathered in my name’, Jesus said.
4. Through the person of the priest, Holy Communion is possible.



To know why the Catholic Church is compelled to evangelise  
 To know how the Church evangelises today: locally, nationally & globally  
 To understand the benefits & challenges of mission in an increasingly secular and multi-faith society



Vocab check: Persecuted / Preach / Secular

**Prepare for learning:** The following are all words of St Francis from his encyclical 'Evangelii Gaudium'. What does he mean?

'There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.' (8)

'[A]n evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!' (10)

'The Eucharist...is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.' (47)

**How did they fulfil this command?**

The Church spread rapidly, even under persecution (think back to your Y8 study). **St. Paul** wrote letters to the early Church, people died for the faith. Constantine had a powerful experience on Oct. 27, 312AD and the Roman Empire became Christian.

From **the Middle Ages to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**, evangelisation took place thanks to Missionaries who travelled with God's message to Africa, Asia & S America.

**In this day & age**, evangelisation is focused on Western countries, which are becoming increasingly secular.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
 The Joy of the Gospel



POPE FRANCIS  
 Apostolic Exhortation on the  
 Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World

**New information: Evangelisation**

'Go out and make disciples of all nations'. These were Jesus' words to his Apostles. This is also the mission of the Church:

- ✓ To go out to the ends of the earth
- ✓ To baptise people into the Church
- ✓ To teach the teachings of Christ

**How does 2013's 'Evangelii Gaudium' fit with all this?**

This concerns the mission of evangelisation in the modern world: that the heart of the Christian message is love for one another. This must motivate us to share the Gospel, help the poor and work for social justice. 'How was Jesus on this earth?' asks the Pope. Jesus made himself lowly and poor. The Pope wants a 'Church which is poor and for the poor.' He wants us to have a special love and care for 'above all the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked.'

Most parishes have a **primary and/or secondary school** attached to them. Parishes should be **places of welcome**, ready to greet new people and receive them into community. Catholics should be **outward looking**, looking for new ways to **spread the Gospel message**.

**Construct task: typed or handwritten answers... in your book**

1. Explain the importance of Evangelisation for Catholics.
2. Explain how the faith spread from the time of Jesus to the present day.
3. Explain the importance of Evangelii Gaudium.
4. How important is spreading God's word for Catholics today?

**Construct task 2:**

Design a fact file on Evangelisation, using p191-193.

**You need to include:**

1. Why Catholics evangelise
2. How they evangelise : locally, nationally, globally.. (which versions have you experienced or seen?)
3. The challenges and possibilities of evangelising in Britain today.

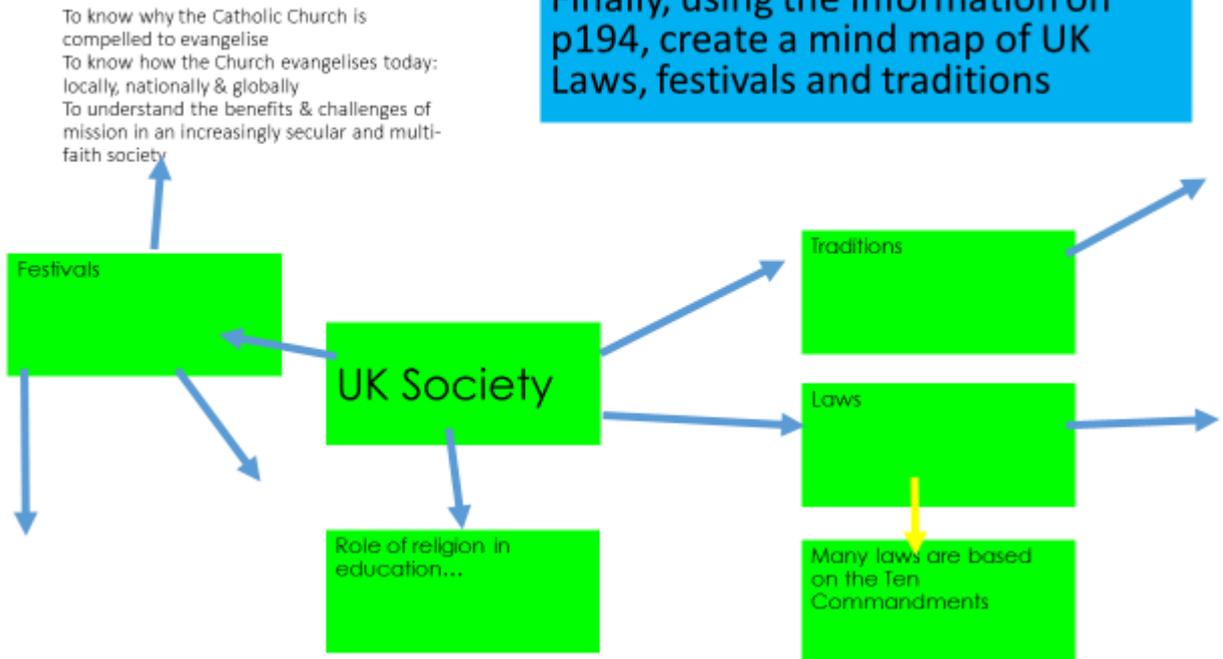
You might also use:

**The diocesan website** to investigate local evangelisation: <https://cliffondiocese.com/>

Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism for NATIONAL evangelisation: <http://www.sioncommunity.org.uk/>

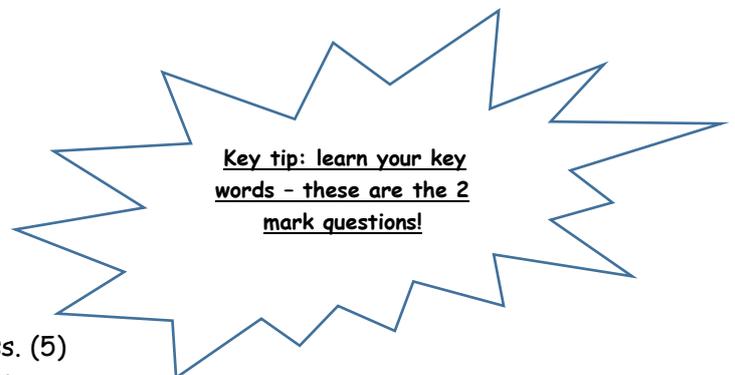
MISSIO – for global mission: <https://www.missio.org.uk/> (Or CAFOD)

**Finally, using the information on p194, create a mind map of UK Laws, festivals and traditions**



**Practice Questions:**

- What is meant by forgiveness? (2)  
 What is Eucharist? (2)  
 What is punishment? (2)  
 What is relativism? (2)  
 What is Evangelisation? (2)
- Describe the teachings of Jesus on forgiveness. (5)  
 Describe Christian teachings on punishment. (5)  
 Describe Catholic Christian beliefs about the Sacraments. (5)  
 Describe the importance of Church design for Catholics. (5)



C. Explain why Mary is important for Catholics. (8 marks)

Tips: Can you use these phrases: Model of the Church/Incarnation/Mediator

**C. Explain Catholic beliefs about punishment (8)**

Think about: 3 sources of authority - summarise what they say and include in your answer.

**C. Explain Catholic beliefs about forgiveness (8)**

Think about: 3 sources of authority - summarise what they say and include in your answer.

C. Explain why the Resurrection is so important to Christians.

C. Explain why Mary is important to Catholics. (8)

C. Explain why evangelisation is important to Catholics. (8)

### **D questions:**

'Christians shouldn't believe in punishment'.

'Jesus died so that everyone will be saved.'

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religion and belief in your answer. (15)

'Capital Punishment is wrong'. Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religion and belief in your answer. (15)

'Evangelisation is about more than preaching the Gospel.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religion and belief in your answer. (15)

'Evangelisation isn't appropriate in a multi-faith society like the U.K.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religion and belief in your answer. (15)

'Catholics should always forgive others.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religion and belief in your answer. (15)

'Britain is a Christian country.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religion and belief in your answer. (15)

'Christians shouldn't force others to listen to their beliefs.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. You must refer to religion and belief in your answer. (15)