1.3 Christian Beliefs About the Atonement and the Meaning of the Cross: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Which of these words names God's free and unearned gift of forgiveness, which Christians believe is made possible through Jesus' death on the cross?

- ☐ A: Grace
- ☐ B: Karma
- ☐ C: Nirvana
- ☐ D: Enlightenment

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Give two Christian teachings about the consequences of sin that the doctrine of atonement is believed to overcome.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Explain two reasons why Christians believe it was necessary for Jesus to be both fully God and fully human for his death on the cross to bring salvation.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 Explain two reasons why some people find it morally difficult to accept the belief that God the Father allowed his Son to suffer and die on the cross.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.3 Christian Beliefs About the Atonement and the Meaning of the Cross: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

selecting option A, grace, cao **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

sin is believed to separate humans from a holy God, creating a barrier in the relationship between them, oe **B1**

sin is believed to lead to spiritual death, so it is taught to have lasting as well as present consequences, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. sin separates humans from God; sin leads to spiritual death, so it has lasting consequences.

Question 3

point 1: as fully human, Jesus could represent humanity and genuinely die in humanity's place, oe **B1**

development: this means his sacrifice can be offered on behalf of all people, since he truly shared human nature, oe **B1**

point 2: as fully God, Jesus' sacrifice is believed to have a value sufficient to atone for the sins of the whole world, oe **B1**

development: this is why Christians teach that no ordinary human sacrifice could achieve what Christ's death achieved, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. his full humanity lets him represent and die for humanity; his full divinity gives his sacrifice sufficient value to atone for the sins of the world.

Question 4

point 1: some argue it is unjust for an innocent person to be punished for the wrongdoing of others, since punishing the innocent seems to go against ordinary ideas of justice, oe **B1**

development: this can make the idea of Jesus taking the punishment deserved by others seem morally troubling to some people, oe **B1**

point 2: some argue that a God described as loving would not want or need his own Son to suffer in this way, oe **B1**

development: this leads some people to prefer explanations of the cross that focus on love and example rather than on punishment and substitution, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. punishing an innocent person seems unjust; a loving God would not need his Son to suffer, so some prefer explanations focused on love rather than punishment.

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