Now test yourself answers

1 Sources of wisdom and authority

Introduction to the Bible
1 Beliefs about God and God’s purposes for the world and humanity.
2 Covenant.
3 Law, historical writings, prophetic writings, wisdom writings.
5 The books that the leaders of the early Church believed were inspired by God and so had special authority.

The nature and authority of the Bible
1 Evangelical Protestants believe the Bible is the directly inspired and infallible word of God, whereas Catholics believe that the Bible is inspired by God but written by human beings, whose limitations of knowledge, culture, and so on mean that there may be errors of understanding.
2 Young earth creationists think the creation stories are literally true and if science conflicts with Genesis, then science is wrong. Old earth creationists do not take a literalist approach and they believe that Genesis 1 and the scientific theory of the Big Bang are compatible.
3 It is not the word of God, but contains the word of God. It is the way through which humans may experience God, but it is not inerrant.
4 Some think the writers of the Bible were guided by God. Others think it is a purely human document. Many think it is not inspired but some individuals might find it inspiring.

The authority of the Church
1 God has inspired the Church to give an authentic interpretation of the Bible.
2 It refers to the transmission of authority from the Apostles to the bishops appointed by them and this transmission of authority has continued down the centuries.
3 The teaching authority of the Church, consisting of the Pope and bishops.
4 It means that the Bible alone is authoritative for Christian belief and practice.
5 The Bible provides the standard of measurement for judging whether Church teachings are true or false; without the Bible, there would be no Church.

The authority of Jesus
1 Son of God, Son of Man.
2 Jesus was a spiritual leader so his teachings might give useful insights, but they do not contain divine authority.
3 They think that the stories about him were altered and exaggerated before the Gospels were written down.
4 Some Christians think Jesus was teaching his disciples that they should be pacifists. Others view the teaching as setting out a standard to be aimed at. Others think that he was teaching the importance of loving attitudes to others in everyday life.
5 All Christians see Jesus as a role model.

2 God

Christian monotheism
1 It is the idea that belief in one God entails also following the moral codes linked to that belief.
2 Some think omnipotence (all-powerful) means that God can do absolutely anything, including the logically impossible. Others think it means that God can do anything that is logically possible.
3 God is without limits and beyond the realms of space and time.
4 Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
5 It can be taken as referring to Jesus’ unity of being with God the Father or as referring to Jesus’ and God’s unity of purpose.

God as Personal, God as Father and God as Love
1 God is involved in what happens in the world, is accessible and answers prayer.
2 They think of God as unconditionally loving and protecting his creation.
3 It puts limits on God and may encourage a distorted understanding of God’s nature.
4 It encourages thinking of God as a male and it is a very power-based metaphor.
5 Many insights into the nature of God would be lost, as to be fully understood, the Bible needs to be studied within the context of the patriarchal culture from which it came.

The concept of God in process theology
1 Both are uncreated and eternal.
2 Panentheistic.
3 Everything is in God and God is in the universe; God and the universe exist together in the way that human minds and bodies exist together.
4 To persuade the world into order and complexity.
5 God is powerful but not omnipotent.

3 Self, death and afterlife
The meaning and purpose of life
1 To glorify God; to prepare for judgement.
2 Jesus.
3 Disobeying God.
4 The rule of God.
5 They pray for the establishment of God’s reign, though they may understand this in different ways.

Resurrection
1 The soul is a distinct entity from the body.
2 It forms the basis of the Christian hope of life after death and if the resurrection of Jesus did not occur, then life and faith are meaningless.
3 Because experience tells us that at death the body decomposes.
4 In the butterfly’s life cycle, each stage is different but the identity remains the same. In the same way, life after death is different from life on earth, but the individual’s identity is the same.
5 It will be spiritual and imperishable, appropriate to the new mode of existence after death.

Different interpretations of judgement, heaven, hell and purgatory
1 It means that God experiences every single process within the universe.
2 They believe that after death, all living things exist forever in the mind of God.
3 This is the belief that the thinking self continues as the same subject of consciousness.
4 It avoids anthropocentric thinking about life after death.
5 Because a person no longer has individual experiences.

4 Good conduct and key moral principles
Good conduct
1 They mean being accepted by God on the basis of belief in him; it is nothing to do with earning salvation.
2 They mean being accepted by God through obeying his commands.
3 Because it means being accepted by God on the basis of belief in him, which means that we are able to live good lives through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.
4 God decided before creation who would be saved and who would be damned.
5 Because it makes God unjust, it contradicts Jesus’ portrayal of God as merciful and loving, and it removes human free will.

Sanctity of life
1 The strong Sanctity of Life principle states that all humans have an absolute right to life that may never be taken away. The weak form of this principle states that all human life is sacred but not absolutely so, and that in exceptional circumstances, it may be taken away.
2 The Quality of Life principle is concerned with the capacity of an individual for self-fulfilment and with possessing dignity in life.
3 From conception.
4 It refers to the criteria used for deciding when going to war might be justified.
5 It refers to the criteria used for deciding how a war must be fought, once it has started.
Dominion and stewardship
1 Dominion and stewardship.
2 It is the view that everything in the universe exists for the benefit of humanity.
3 It states how at each stage of creation, God ‘saw and it was good’.
4 The encyclical rejects anthropocentrism and urges responsible care of the world.
5 A Rocha.

5 Expressions of religious identity
Baptism
1 An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.
2 A rule deriving directly from the Bible, particularly from the teaching of Jesus, and a ceremony that comes from that rule.
3 It cleanses the child from original sin and the child becomes a member of the Church.
4 There is no New Testament evidence for it; Jesus was baptised as an adult.
5 ‘I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’

Holy Communion
1 Being a Christian is all about leading a Christian lifestyle; rituals are not needed.
2 The Mass; the Eucharist.
3 ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’
4 He took it, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples.
5 ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’

The mission of the Church
1 Evangelism, mission to the Christian community, mission to the poor and disadvantaged.
2 It is less concerned with conversion and more concerned with supporting Christian communities in outreach projects.
3 Church attendance had declined significantly and there was a whole generation of young people with no knowledge of Christianity.
4 They go out at night onto streets in cities to listen to and support young people who have been clubbing, for example, and need help.
5 The drive to promote unity between Christian denominations.

6 Christianity, gender and sexuality

Historical and social factors that have influenced developments in Christian thinking about women
1 When he ate with Martha and Mary.
2 Jesus did not commission women as future leaders.
3 Men and women are equal in status and value but have different roles in the life of the Church.
4 The Catholic Church.
5 Equality between men and women extends to their roles in Church life.

Debates about female ordination in the Church of England
1 1994.
2 2015.
3 To prevent a split in the Church of England.
4 They provide pastoral care for those churches who do not accept female ordination; they perform Confirmation and Ordination ceremonies.
5 To allow married Anglican priests to become Catholic priests and to allow whole congregations to become fully Catholic, while retaining elements of Anglican practice.

A comparison of the significant ideas of Daphne Hampson and Rosemary Radford Ruether
1 The liberal, biblical and radical approaches.
2 The emphasis on reason and experience in Daphne Hampson’s work underlie her belief that there can be no uniqueness to the person of Christ nor a unique resurrection.
3 Jesus embodied both masculine and feminine aspects of human nature.
Different Christian views about celibacy, marriage, homosexuality and transgender issues

1 Priestly celibacy is a voluntary offering of oneself in service to God.
2 Priestly celibacy conflicts with the teaching of 1 Timothy.
3 Procreation is no longer an important purpose of marriage, and divorce and remarriage are much more common.
4 Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is now a crime.
5 Fear of homosexuals.

7 Christianity and science

The emphasis on evidence and reason in science

1 The rationalist and empirical approaches.
2 A deductive approach works from the general to the specific, whereas an inductive approach works from the specific to the general.
3 Deism.
4 The two disciplines are asking different questions about the world.

How scientific explanation has challenged Christian belief

1 Inductive reasoning.
2 Those who were best suited to the environment and able to adapt to changes survived.
3 The red shift and cosmic microwave radiation.
4 The approach whereby some Christians attribute to God anything that cannot be explained scientifically.
5 Young earth creationists reject the Big Bang theory and evolution, viewing them as untrue explanations made by fallible humans. Old earth creationists accept the Big Bang theory as in keeping with Genesis 1, and some accept a modified version of evolution.

The belief that science is compatible with Christianity

1 The idea of providence.
2 Both are different ways of understanding reality.
3 The idea that religious differences are due to cultural differences could lead to the conclusion that religion is simply a cultural phenomenon. Also, repeated experiment is an essential part of scientific investigation. Christian claims about Jesus are based on a single and unrepeatable series of events.

Different Christian responses to issues raised by science: genetic engineering

1 A genetically modified and patented mouse.
2 Humans who, once the technology has been developed, will have advanced physical, intellectual and emotional powers.
3 They have produced a human protein in their milk that can treat lung disease.
4 They might produce significantly larger crop yields and the plants might be disease resistant.
5 Somatic-cell therapy entails genetic modification of human cells that are not sex cells. Germ line therapy entails genetic modification of human cells that are sex cells.

8 Christianity and the challenge of secularisation

The challenge of secularisation

1 The emphasis on reason, evidence and scientific thought.
2 Arguments and scandals within the Church.
3 The Church of England.

Responses to materialistic secular values

1 Material wealth, possessions and physical comfort matter more than spiritual belief and practices.
2 It warns of eternal consequences for those who ignore the needs of others.
3 He was not ‘tied’ to it.
4 To give up all property and live simply.
5 It is not intrinsically wrong to be rich, but it brings great responsibilities.

The rise of militant atheism: the view that religion is irrational

1 Militant atheism sees religion as a harmful thing that must be combatted. Ordinary atheism is simply the belief that there is no God.
2 Belief in God is irrational and contrary to good science. Religion encourages discrimination.
3 Many of the most distinguished scientists are theists. Dawkins’ views on religion are biased and outdated.
Emergence of new forms of Christian expression
1 It is a movement that works alongside traditional Churches, starting from where people are, listening to their life experiences and considering how the attitudes of Jesus might give meaning to those experiences.
2 Fundamentalist.
3 It practises glossolalia, prophecy and healing.

Emphasis on the social relevance of Christianity
1 In times of major disasters people often turn to the Church, and locally, Christian communities often give support to those hit by tragedy.
2 He denounced the oppression and corruption of the government of his country.
3 It is about making the marginalised in society an absolute priority and giving them the justice that is due to them.

9 Christianity, migration and religious pluralism

How migration has created multicultural societies which include Christianity
1 Migrants crossing into Europe from North Africa and refugees from the civil war in Syria.
2 There are insufficient employment opportunities.
3 It is a way of enriching society.
4 It enables the sharing and understanding of other traditions.
5 It threatens social cohesion, and some practices are illegal and lead to tension.

Christian attitudes to other faiths
1 It is the view that one religion alone is true.
2 There is no salvation outside the Catholic Church.
3 'What unites us is much greater than that which divides us.'
4 The unconditional love of God.

Pluralism with reference to John Hick
1 That a person’s religion is almost always tied up with their place of birth.
2 By history and culture.
3 About self-transformation.
4 Most Christians think in terms of life, death, judgement and final state rather than future states of existence after death.
5 Relationships between those of different faiths.

Christian responses to issues of freedom of religious expression in society
1 The right to express religious beliefs and views.
2 It could cause a breach of the peace.
3 She was not restricting anyone else’s rights.
4 The cross was considered a health and safety risk.
5 It was a breach of the 2007 Sexual Orientation regulations.