**Now Test Yourself: Answers**

**1.1.1 The nature of God**

**Page 1**

1. **What does monotheistic mean?**
   Monotheistic refers to a religion that has only one God.

2. **Give three characteristics of God.**
   Any of the following would be acceptable examples:
   - omniscient
   - omnibenevolent
   - immanent
   - omnipotent

3. **Describe what it is that Christians believe about God’s nature that makes him a fair judge.**
   Christians believe God’s perfect nature and omniscience make him a fair judge.

4. **How do Christians believe God has provided a perfect example of godly living?**
   Jesus was God incarnate, he lived a perfect life on earth and provides an example of godly living.

**1.1.2 The concept of God as a Trinity of persons**

**Page 2**

1. **What is the Holy Trinity?**
   The Holy Trinity are The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is one God with three persons.

2. **State three Christian beliefs about the Trinity.**
   Christians believe that each person of the Trinity is equal, they are each distinct and they have a perfect relationship.

3. **State two Christian denominations that do not believe in the Trinity.**
   Unitarians and Christadelphians do not believe in the Trinity.

4. **What reasons do some Christians have for not believing in the Trinity?**
   Some Christians do not believe in the Trinity because they think it may lead to the idea that there is more than one God.

5. **Describe how Philippians 2:5–8 and John 14:16–17 can be used to support the Christian belief in the Trinity.**
   Philippians shows that Jesus is equal to God as it says he was ‘in very nature God’. The Spirit is given from God to humans as it says in John 14. After Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Spirit was given as the permanent presence of God to live within believers.

**1.1.3 Biblical accounts of creation**

**Page 3**

1. **Describe the way in which God creates in Genesis 1.**
   God creates through speech.

2. **How is the creation of humans different to the way God creates the rest of the world?**
   When God creates humans he uses something he has already made, ‘the dust of the ground’, and he breathes life into Adam. Everything else is created through God’s speech.
3. Which passage in the Bible describes the role of the Word in creation?
John 1 describes the role of the Word in creation.

4. What is the role of the Spirit in creation?
The Spirit hovers and waits to bring life into the world. God’s breath into Adam was also his Spirit bringing life.

5. State one reason why the role of the Father, the Spirit and the Word in creation is important to Christians.
It is important because it shows that the whole of the Trinity were involved in Creation. It reinforces their monotheistic understanding of God.

1.1.4 The role and purpose of human beings

Page 4
1. State the roles given to Adam and Eve by God.
Adam was created to care for the earth and Eve was to be his helper. They had to rule over the birds, fish and animals.

2. What is the rule that God gives to Adam and Eve?
They must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

3. What causes Eve to disobey God?
Eve disobeys God when the serpent tempts her, suggesting that the fruit looked good to eat and that God would not punish her.

4. Describe the effect of the Fall.
The Fall caused humans to no longer be in a relationship with God. Human sin is a barrier to this relationship. As a result, humans require salvation, which is provided through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

1.1.5 Different and divergent interpretations of the Genesis creation story

Page 5
1. When considering the accounts of creation from Genesis, what three things do all Christians agree on?
All Christians agree that God created the universe, he acted out of love and goodness, and humans are made in his image.

2. Why do some Christians believe that the most appropriate way to understand Genesis is as a myth?
Some Christians believe that the most appropriate way to understand Genesis is as a myth because of the differences in writing style between Genesis 1 and 2 and because of scientific research.

3. What is another name for the literal approach to interpreting Genesis 1–3?
Another name for the literal approach to interpreting Genesis 1–3 is creationism.

4. How do Christians who take the literal approach respond to the fact that the biblical accounts conflict with scientific evidence?
They reject anything which disagrees with the biblical accounts of creation.

1.1.6 The problem of evil and suffering and a loving and righteous God

Page 6
1. What is natural evil?
Natural evil is evil caused by nature, e.g. volcanic eruptions.
2. What is moral evil?
Moral evil is evil caused by human decisions, e.g. murder.

3. Summarise the problem of evil.
God is omnipotent and benevolent and yet suffering exists in the world. Either he cares enough but lacks the power to stop it, or he has the power to stop it but he does not care enough to do so.

4. In what way does the Lord’s Prayer help believers to depend on God and trust him even in times of suffering?
In the Lord’s Prayer, believers trust in God’s will in their lives. They depend on him for their needs and ask that he delivers them from evil.

1.1.7 Jesus Christ

Page 7
1. What was the incarnation?
The incarnation was God coming in the flesh, as a human in the form of Jesus.

2. What does Isaiah predict about Jesus’ conception?
Isaiah predicts that Jesus will be born of a virgin.

3. What does Messiah mean?
Messiah means ‘anointed one’.

4. How do Christians believe that Jesus is the Saviour?
Christians believe that Jesus is the Saviour because of his death on the cross, taking the punishment for sin and allowing a relationship with God to be restored.

5. In what way do these beliefs affect the way a Christian may choose to live?
Christians worship God, follow Jesus’ example of holy living and confess their sins when they make mistakes.

1.1.8 The role and importance of Jesus’ teachings and life as an example for Christians

Page 8
1. In Matthew 22 what does Jesus say are the two most important Commandments?
In Matthew 22 Jesus says the two most important Commandments are to love God and to love your neighbour.

2. Who did Jesus spend time with?
Jesus spent time with those whom society rejected.

3. What do Christians learn from this?
Christians learn that God values all people and a relationship with him is possible.

4. Summarise the story of the Good Samaritan.
A man travels from Jerusalem to Jericho. He is mugged and left half dead. A priest and a Levite both walk past and do not help him. The Samaritan stops and helps the man, taking him to an inn and paying for his care.

5. Why does Jesus tell the story of the Good Samaritan?
Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan to show people how they should show love to all people, not just their friends but also their enemies. Samaritans and Jews were enemies.
1.1.9 Christian love and beliefs about Jesus

Page 9

1. What is agape love?
Agape love is sacrificial love.

2. How does Jesus demonstrate agape love?
Jesus demonstrates agape love by coming to earth and then dying on the cross.

3. Give an example of a miracle account in the Bible through which Jesus shows compassion.
The healing of the man with leprosy in Matthew 8 is one example.

4. State three ways in which Jesus’ teaching on love should affect Christians.
Christians should:
- forgive one another
- help people in need
- work to achieve peace.

5. What do all Christians believe about Jesus?
All Christians believe Jesus was man and God.

6. What makes it hard for some Christians to accept the claims of Jesus being born of a virgin or of him performing miracles?
These claims are hard to accept because they go against scientific knowledge and the laws of nature.

7. State what conservative Christians believe about God’s power to do miracles.
God can do anything as he is all-powerful and so anything is possible.

1.1.10 The Christian ideal as expressed in Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount

Page 11

1. State the six sections into which the Sermon on the Mount can be divided.
The six sections of the Sermon on the Mount are the Beatitudes, Jesus and the law, true discipleship, true righteousness, the narrow gateway and building on solid foundations.

2. What do the Beatitudes describe?
The Beatitudes describe attitudes that Christians should aim to develop through the help of the Holy Spirit.

3. What makes Jesus’ teaching on the law so challenging?
Jesus teaches that obedience must come from a person’s heart and it is based on love, including love for your enemies.

4. Describe what Jesus says makes a true disciple.
A true disciple must be sincere in all that they do. They should seek to please God and be humble in front of other people.

5. In what way does Jesus warn people not to judge others?
Jesus warns people that if they judge others, they will be judged by those standards too.

6. Summarise why living a life of faith is described as a ‘narrow pathway’ in the Sermon on the Mount.
Living a life of faith is a narrow pathway because it requires Christians to be obedient to God even if they are being persecuted.
7. What does Jesus say is the best foundation for people to build their lives on?
Jesus says the best foundation for people to build their lives on is faith and trust in God.

1.1.11 The incarnation, resurrection and ascension

Page 13
It demonstrates that he was God incarnate.

2. State why Christians believe it is important that Jesus was born without sin.
Because Jesus was born without sin he was able to demonstrate how to live a perfect holy life and through his death take the punishment for the sins of all people.

3. What do Christians believe was the purpose of Jesus’ crucifixion?
Christians believe the purpose of Jesus’ crucifixion was to take the punishment for human sin and restore the relationship between humans and God.

4. How does the teaching in Matthew 28:1–6 support the Christian belief that Jesus was resurrected?
The women find Jesus’ tomb empty the day after his burial. The stone is rolled back and the angels tell them that Jesus has been resurrected.

5. What do Christians believe Jesus returned to heaven to do?
Christians believe Jesus returned to heaven to prepare a place for them to go after death.

1.1.12 The concept of salvation

Page 15
1. What is atonement?
Atonement is when something is done to pay for a wrongdoing.

2. How did Jesus provide an alternative to the atonement sacrifice described in the Old Testament?
Jesus’ death was a perfect and eternal sacrifice that paid the punishment for human sin once and for all. This is different to the animal sacrifices, which were temporary.

3. What is grace?
Grace means that Christians have God’s blessing even though they are not perfect and don’t deserve it.

4. State why Christians believe repentance is important.
Repentance is necessary in order for a person to be forgiven by God and to receive his grace.

5. Describe two different Christian beliefs about salvation.
One belief about salvation is that it is received through being baptised, belonging to a church and taking part in the sacraments. Other Christians believe that salvation is the result of a specific conversion experience.

1.1.13 Eschatological beliefs

Page 17
1. What is Parousia?
Parousia is the hope of Jesus’ second coming to earth.

2. State why the belief in the resurrection is an eschatological belief.
The belief in the resurrection is eschatological because some Christians believe that at the end of time all the dead will be raised to life to be judged by God.
3. Outline the different beliefs that Christians have about hell. 
There are three main Christian beliefs of what hell may be:
- annihilation, when a person will be completely destroyed
- eternal torture and suffering
- existing in a place in the absence of God.

4. Which denomination teaches that purgatory exists?
The Catholic Church teaches that purgatory exists.

5. Describe what Christians believe about heaven.
Heaven is where a person will be in the presence of God for eternity after death; there will be no pain or suffering.

6. What is the link between John 14:1–3 and Christian eschatological beliefs?
John 14 describes heaven as a home with many rooms. It teaches Christians that Jesus has gone ahead of them to prepare a place for them after they too have died.