

Key Concepts

Punishment	The consequences or penalty for someone that has committed a crime.	Absolutism	The belief that there are certain actions which are always right or always wrong.
Sin	An act against God	Relativism	The belief that certain actions are right or wrong depending on the situation or circumstances.
Forgiveness	The act of pardoning someone for the offences they've caused you. Overlooking a person's faults.	Eucharist	Meaning "thanksgiving". The sacrament in which Roman Catholics remember the Last Supper.
Salvation	The belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of eternal life.	Evangelisation	Spreading the "Good News" which can be translated as "Gospel" The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.

Salvation and Redemption

Roman Catholics believe that they require salvation. Salvation is the belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity can achieve the possibility of life forever with God. Without salvation humans are unable to overcome the problem of sin which means they may not achieve eternal life. Redemption is an act that saves someone from sin. Catholics believe Jesus death was an act of redemption.

Sources of Authority

"By your cross and resurrection, you have set us free" **Eucharistic Prayer**

"The lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world". **Eucharistic Prayer**

"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."
John

Importance of Jesus life for Salvation	Roman Catholics believe that God took human form in the person of Jesus. This is called the Incarnation which literally means ' made flesh '. God took this form so that he could help repair the damage created by sin. Jesus showed God's love for humanity through his actions. Jesus cared for the poor, healed the sick and forgave sinners. Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount taught his followers how they too could show the love of God.
Importance of Jesus death for Salvation	The most important way in which Jesus provided salvation for humans was through his death on the cross . Catholics believe that Jesus' death was a sacrifice . Just like the Jewish people sacrificed a lamb at Passover so that they could escape slavery in Egypt, Jesus became a sacrifice so that humanity could escape from sin. Jesus was referred to as the " lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world ". Jesus' death provided redemption , it was an act that saved people from sin. His sacrifice meant people could receive salvation and have eternal life with God .
Importance of Jesus resurrection and ascension for Salvation	Jesus gave salvation through the resurrection . This is the belief that following his death, Jesus rose from the dead. This event confirmed that Jesus was the Son of God and was omnipotent (all-powerful) . Catholics believe that if they accept Jesus then they will also be resurrected and given salvation. It was proof that life after death was possible and Jesus repaired the relationship between humans and God. 40 days after his resurrection Jesus is said to have ascended to heaven . This event was witnessed by his disciples. This event provides salvation because Jesus has repaired the relationship and reopened heaven for everyone.
Would a loving God condemn anyone to hell?	Some would argue that a loving God is right to condemn some people to hell because humans have free will and choose their own actions. This means that it is right and just for God to judge them if they are sinful. God can offer salvation and redemption through Jesus but it is up to the individual to accept the offer. Jesus taught parables with a clear message about reward and punishment and how people should act. Some actions may be absolutely wrong and are beyond forgiveness. Punishment is sometimes necessary. On the other hand, some might argue that punishment and suffering does not fit with the belief that God is all loving . God's love and mercy is unconditional . This means no one deserves to be punishment for eternity. Jesus taught that we should forgive " not seven times, but seventy-seven times ". Jesus seems to teach a message of reform and rehabilitation . There is no room for reform if a person is condemned to an eternity in hell

Exam Practice

d) 'A loving God would not condemn anyone to hell' (15)

c) Explain why Jesus' death is important for Catholics (8)