

Sheep and Goats: One Parable, Many Uses

Whichever exam board or specification you are studying for GCSE Religious Studies, using sources of wisdom and authority, such as those from holy books or religious leaders in your answers is very important.

This unit will help you to make the most of a key source of wisdom and authority for the Christianity elements of your GCSE. You will think critically and creatively about how you can use one key passage from the New Testament to add depth to answers, and gain extra marks, across the different topics you study at GCSE. The activities are designed to be useful for GCSE Religious Studies full or short course across all the exam boards. You will need to have a good understanding of the content of your GCSE course to make the most of the activities. Please see the final page of this document, where you can link to relevant pages of your exam board's website and check what's on the specification for your course. It may also be helpful to look at past papers to get an idea of what sorts of questions may come up.

The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

In this parable, Jesus likens God to a shepherd who separates his sheep from his goats to help his followers understand what God's judgement will be like.

Jesus says that people will be separated into two groups. Those who have lived good lives through their actions and who have believed in God are likened to sheep, who have followed God and earned a place in Heaven with God. On the other hand, people who have ignored those in need of their help, and who have rejected belief in God are likened to goats. They will be placed on the other side, rejected by God and go to Hell.

Read the full version of the parable in the Bible or online here and complete the activities which follow:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+25%3A31-46&version=NIV>



Sum up the Parable

Use this space to sum up the story. Do this in a way that you will find useful for revision, e.g. a story board, an illustration, a poem or even simple bullet points. Using colour is good idea. As an extra challenge, can you do this in fewer than 30 words?

Analyse it!

Make notes on what the parable tells you about the following issues:


Life after death	
The nature of God	
Wealth and poverty	
Social responsibility	
Crime and punishment	
Forgiveness	
Human rights	

Evaluation Practice

Here are four statements that could come up as evaluation questions in your exam. In all of them, the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats could be used effectively as a reference to a source of wisdom and authority. Plan an approach to each of the evaluation questions. Think carefully about what other sources of wisdom and authority could use to develop your answer. Also, remember to make good use of key words to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding.

Discuss/Evaluate	
'Helping others is the most important part of being a good Christian.'	'Christians only need faith in God to be saved.'
'God cannot be omnibenevolent if hell exists.'	'Everyone deserves forgiveness.'

7 Key Christian Teachings



Evangelise! Spread the word and make people Christians by baptising them:
“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)

Give to the poor. Follow Jesus. Material wealth is not important.
Jesus tells a rich man: “Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” and goes on to say:
“How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” (Luke 18:22-25)

Those who devote their lives to doing God’s will shall have eternal life
“No one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.” (Luke 18:29-35)

The Greatest Commandment
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength; and ... love your neighbour as yourself.”
(Matthew 22:37-39)

Always forgive. Don’t seek revenge
If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, **turn** to them the other cheek also. (Matthew 5:39)
Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Those who do not help the needy will be punished by God
The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)
The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

Christians love should show unconditional to all, no matter how challenging this may be
Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44)
The Good Samaritan helps a person who is traditionally regarded as an enemy of his community: Luke 10:25-37

THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Image: Paul Zostemeller, Unsplash

Here are some key Christian teachings from Jesus. Look carefully at the topics you have studied, both Christianity and any themes. Look back over the work you have done in class and think carefully about how you could use these teachings to develop your answers. Try to remember all 7 of the teachings and make your own mind map of them.

Get ready with multi-purpose sources of wisdom and authority

Finding sources of wisdom and authority that can be used in lots of different contexts is a good way to prepare for exams. You’re unlikely to remember all the quotes and stories you’ve learnt so choose ones like the Parable of the Sheep and Goats, that can be used in a range of questions.

What other sources of wisdom and authority could you use for lots of different types of questions from:

- A) Christianity
- B) The other religion you are studying
- C) Non-religious worldviews?

Evaluation question types for the different exam boards

Different exam boards have different ways of asking evaluation questions. When you see the 'evaluation practice' activities in the home learning materials, we will give you a statement to evaluate, and follow it with 'Discuss/evaluate'. Look up your exam board on the grid below to remind yourself of the exact wording you will see on the exam paper for an evaluation question, and how many marks you can earn from them.

AQA – 12 marks Evaluate this statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• refer to the teaching of the religion in question• give reasoned arguments to support the statement• give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view• reach a justified conclusion.	Eduqas and WJEC – 15 marks Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. Refer to religion and belief.
OCR – 15 marks Discuss this statement. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse and evaluate the importance of points of view, referring to common and divergent views within the religion in question• Refer to sources of wisdom and authority.	Pearson Edexcel – 15 marks Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• refer to teachings of the religions in question• refer to different religious points of view• reach a justified conclusion.

BBC Bitesize GCSE Religious Studies Resources

The BBC Bitesize website has GCSE Religious Studies resources for each of the exam boards. You will find basic information relating to the topics that you need to learn about as well as useful videos and quizzes to test your knowledge and understanding. You can find these by following the link or QR code below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zb48q6f>



GCSE Religious Studies web pages for Exam Boards

The GCSE lessons to take away from RE Today have been designed to help with all the GCSE specifications available, whatever exam board you use at your school.

It is very important, especially when working at home, that you know which exam board and specification you are following. If you're not sure, have a look at your school's website or contact your teacher online, e.g. by email.

The exam boards' websites have detailed information about the course you are studying. They also have past exam papers and mark schemes. Some of them have free learning resources for you to download and use as well. Here are the links and QR codes that will take you directly to the GCSE Religious Studies pages for each of the exam boards.

AQA		https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062
Eduqas		https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/gcse/
OCR		https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/religious-studies-j625-j125-from-2016/
Pearson Edexcel	 	Specification A (Faith in Practice in the 21 st Century): https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-a-2016.html Specification B (Beliefs in Action) https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-b-2016.html
WJEC (Wales)		https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies/r-religious-studies-gcse-2017/