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For example:

- Baptism**
- Eucharist**

B) Explain how religious organisations have worked to achieve Christian reconciliation. (5)

ecumenical
movement



**World Council
of Churches**



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1. The Ecumenical Movement *(ECUMENICAL – relating to a number of different churches)*

- An attempt to bring together different Christian denominations and promote Christian unity throughout the world
- Began in 1910 - the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh aimed to unify the Protestant Churches of the world & ultimately all Christians
- As a result, there is much more cooperation between different Church denominations. E.g. Churches sharing a common building and joint ecumenical services
- Although denominational difference still exist, many Christians today believe there should only be one Church

B) Explain how religious organisations have worked to achieve Christian reconciliation. (5)

2) The World Council of Churches

- A worldwide fellowship of Churches seeking unity, aiming to be 'a visible sign. Deepening communion and making connections'
- Each year, WCC hold a special week of prayer for Christian unity, bringing together denominations in more than 110 countries.
- 'Churches together in England' grew out of the work of the WCC – they aim to offer practical ways of achieving greater unity – special ecumenical services are organised each January during the week of prayer.
- Catholic Church isn't a member, but it does take part in some national and local ecumenical organisations.

c) Explain how and why Tearfund helps those in need.(8)



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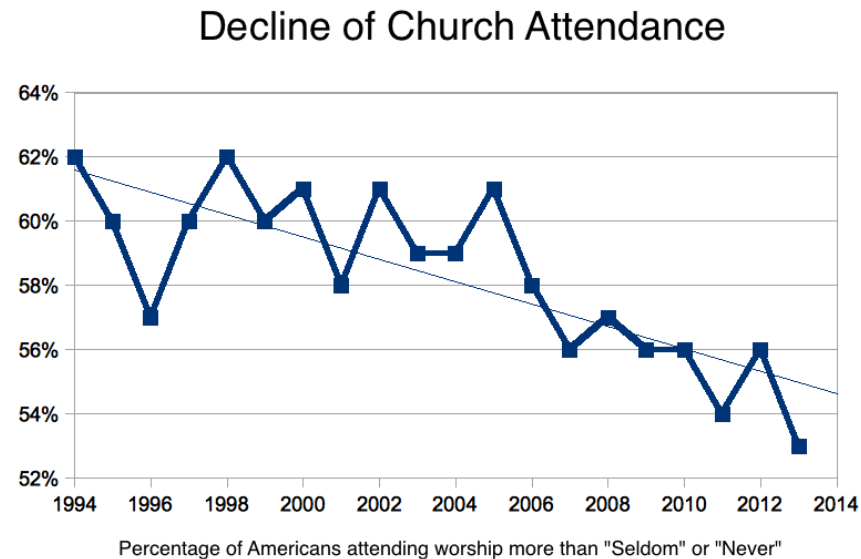
HOW:

- The charity works through church groups in over 50 countries. It:
- Provides emergency aid after natural disasters
- Raises public awareness of poverty & discrimination
- Campaigns against causes of poverty worldwide
- Encourages self-help for both individuals & communities

WHY:

- It's aim is to put Christian beliefs and Jesus' command to 'love they neighbour' into action.
- To show the unconditional love Jesus did in the Gospels – AGAPE
- 'We are all made in God's image', so all equal
- Tearfunds work with Children in Columbia is an example - set up 30 sport clubs for football training, providing safe places for the young people in danger of joining gangs. The also offer mentoring to support them with life skills.

D) 'Churches are no longer important in the 21st century'



Graph by Corner of Church & State, an RNS blog
Source: Gallup



D) 'Churches are no longer important in the 21st century'

AGREE

Church attendance at traditional churches has declined in the last 10 years. In 2016, it has dropped to its lowest.

Many Churches are closing in the UK.

Society itself is becoming much more secular – the community is no longer centred around the Church

Society is adapting and rejecting many church morals/teachings/values for example, many accept homosexuality, which goes against 'man shall not lie with another man'

Many people now turn to science for answers about the existence of the universe, therefore Church is not as important to understand how the world came to be

Work/materialism and making money for a good quality of life and survival has resulted in people not having time to attend church

Some may argue that Church doesn't make your faith anymore valuable and praying at home may be preferred. *'Go home, close your door and pray to your father in heaven'*

D) 'Churches are no longer important in the 21st century'

DISAGREE

Some Churches in UK are thriving – Evangelical churches which are charismatic and animated, where services are more spontaneous rather than traditional and set

Church provides community and support

Church planting has been happening in the UK – the ICTHUS fellowship has established new churches across London and Kent

Fresh Expressions – a movement in the Church of England which has tried to change the way they meet and worship. An example is a café church.

Many Churches are involved in helping the community through volunteering/fundraising. Many Churches are also involved in mission work world-wide. E.g. Open Doors. Churches are important for these things to continue.

Although Christianity might be declining in the UK, it is a world religion, and is spreading & growing successfully in Asia, South America and Africa – by 2050, 4/10 Christians will live in Africa

Many Churches organises youth groups/clubs that young people can be a part of and socialise safely. Further, they have organisations like brownies and cubs.

Many Churches run food banks for the homeless, and day care crèches for young children.

a) State two reasons why a Christian might go on a pilgrimage. (2)

- An act of religious devotion
- Act of supplication, to ask God for something

EXAMPLES?



a) State two reasons why a Christian might go on a pilgrimage. (2)

- An act of religious devotion
- Act of supplication, to ask God for something

TAIZE in Burgundy in France, where Christians for all different denominations come together to pray



b) Explain how Christians seek to help those who are persecuted. (5)



Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide



b) Explain how Christians seek to help those who are persecuted. (5)

Evangelical Christian organisations, such as Open Doors help persecuted Christians. Established in 1955, they support persecuted Christians across the world by:

- Distributing Bibles to those who may not have access/had them thrown away
- Training Christians and Church leaders to deal with the trauma they may be suffering while keeping their faith
- Provides practical support for victims of disasters
- Speak on behalf of persecuted Christians & raise awareness of the situation
- Gather support if they can from lobbying MPS in the UK government
- E.G they work in N.Korea – Eun Hee was an example of an active worker.

c) Explain the significance of 2 Christian sacraments of your choice. (8)



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Infant Baptisms in CoE/RC Churches are important because:

- It is a rite of entry to become member of the church - Parents & God-parents make promises to bring child up in the Christian Faith
- Pouring of the water over the head symbolises purity/washing away of sins

ADULT BAPTISM in Baptist Churches are important because:

- Follows example of Jesus who was baptised as an adult
- Emergence in water remembers Jesus' crucifixion & the lifting up out of the water remembers his resurrection, symbolising new life 'born of the water'
- Public proclamation of their personal faith

Bible states:

'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them' Jesus

'No one can enter the kingdom of God, unless they are born of the water' Jesus

c) Explain the significance of 2 Christian sacraments of your choice. (8)

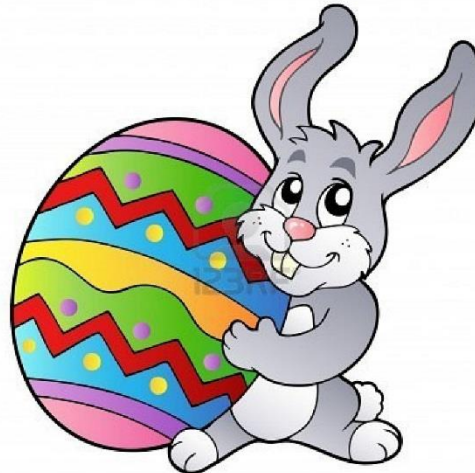
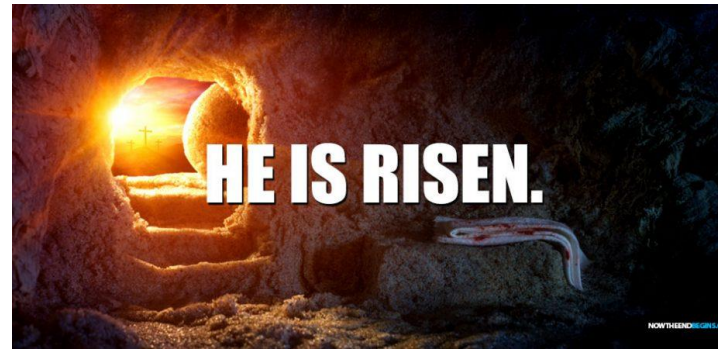
EUCCHARIST is significant because:

- At the last supper, Jesus told his disciples to share bread and wine when gathered together after his death in his memory
- It's a tradition, which brings them closer to God
- Eucharist means 'thanksgiving' and it is an ACT of thanksgiving for the life and death of Jesus & the Christian faith

Different denominations have different views on its significance:

- Catholics believe in transubstantiation – bread & wine actually become the body of Christ
- Protestants – Christ is present spiritually only – not literally

D) “Christian celebrations have no meaning in today’s society”



D) “Christian celebrations have no religious meaning in today’s society”

AGREE:

Society is much more secular in the UK now, as less people are attending church and less people are Christian

Christmas and Easter is celebrated by many non-Christians/Atheists, so it holds no religious significance. Nativity plays have become winter concerts, many agree it is a winter-time festival, rather than religious.

Christmas is often associated more with father Christmas and the giving of gifts, rather than remember the incarnation

Many attend Church at Christmas/Easter just because it is a tradition, not because it has any real religious meaning to them

As society is now more pluralistic, other celebrations such as Id-UI Fitr might have more religious meaning than Christmas or Easter.

Was Jesus really born in December? Did he really resurrected on Easter Sunday? How can the events have significant religious meaning, if we aren’t 100% sure they occurred on the days we celebrate them?

D) “Christian celebrations have no religious meaning in today’s society”

CHRISTMAS DISAGREE:

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus – the incarnation

Advent is still celebrated by many & many fast during this period

Many Churches and school still hold nativity plays/scenes

Christingle services still take place in many churches

Many Churches hold mid-night mass on Christmas Eve and service on Christmas Day

EASTER DISAGREE:

Easter is the **MOST** important festival in Christian calendar – remembers death & resurrection of Jesus

Many still fast during the period of Lent to remember Jesus’ fasting & praying in the desert

On Ash Wednesday, there are special services in the RC church

Many Christians still remember the events of Jesus last week alive on earth in ‘Holy Week’

On Easter Sunday, many attend service remembering that ‘Jesus is Risen’, where there are personal readings of the bible.