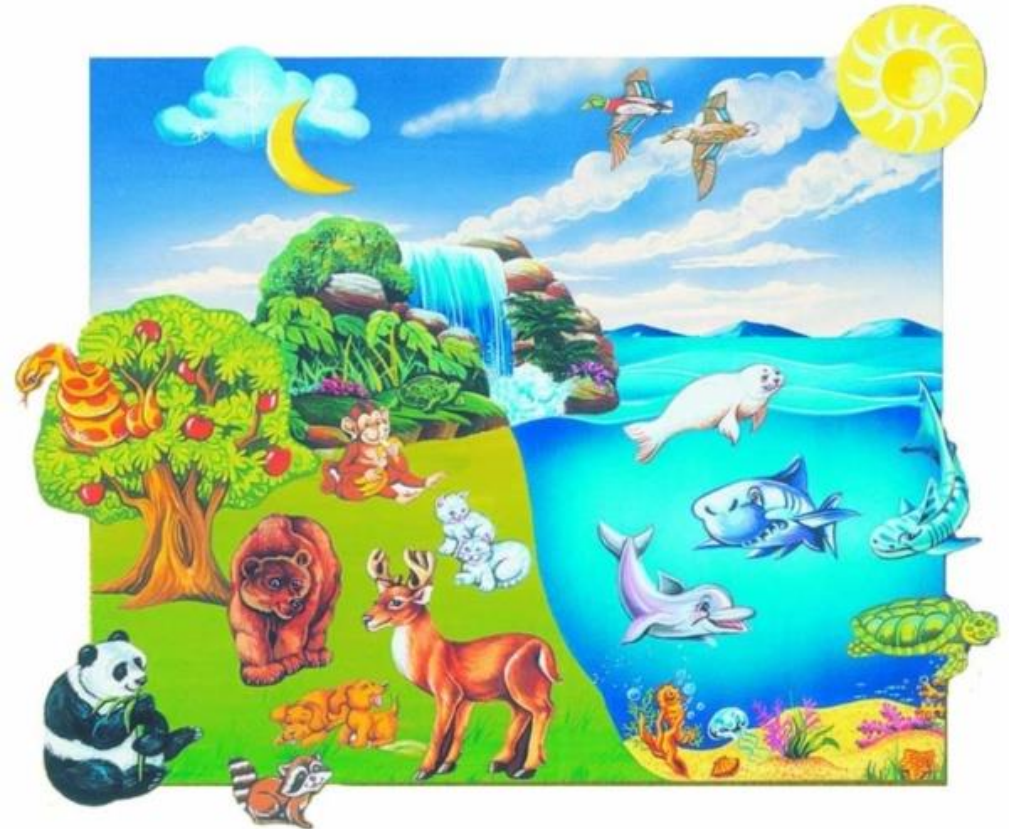
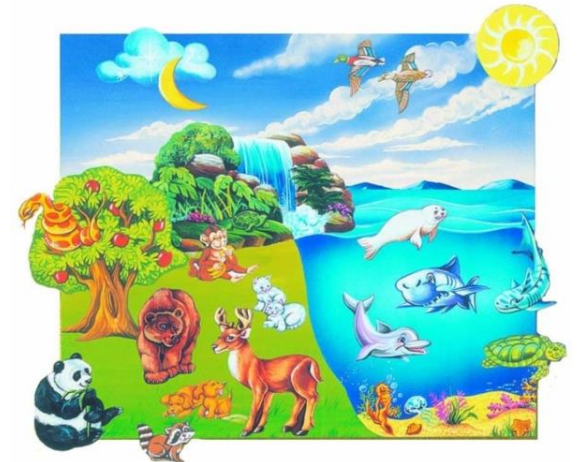


A) State 2 reasons why Christians believe God is omnipotent. (2)



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- **God parted the red sea so Moses and the Jews could escape from slavery in Egypt.**

'The Lord drove back the sea with a strong East wind'

- **God's omnipotence is also reflected in the creation story.**

'God spoke things into existence'

B) Explain the concept of original sin, and how different Christians view this concept. (5)



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1. Concept of Original Sin

- Many Christians believe that we are born with Original sin – the tendency to disobey God.
- It is believed to have come into this world as a result of the fall, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Adam's sin has been passed down from generation to generation.
- It is this sin that separates us from God.

2. Differing view on original sin

- Some Christians believe that it is unfair of God to punish all of us due to one man's act of disobedience.
- Non-literal interpretations of the Bible don't believe the events of the fall actually happened, and even if they did, they can't be explained biologically as how can sin actually be passed on?
- Modern Christians - original sin is as a useful way of knowing that humans are prone to do bad things, and acting against God's laws.

c) Explain Christian beliefs about heaven and hell. (8)

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- Numerous references in the Bible to heaven, there are not many descriptions of it
- Traditionally thought of as real places. It was believed that hell was underground and heaven in the sky.
- Modern understandings are more likely to see heaven as a place where God is and hell is a place where God is not.
- Both are connected to an idea of reward and punishment at the end of an earthly life and

Heaven:

- Most Christians believe that it is where people go in the afterlife if they have the right to go there and that is where God and angels are located.
- However, some believe that heaven is an actual, physical place
- Others believe it exists in a more spiritual dimension, more of a state or condition.

Hell:

- Most believe that, whatever it is, it is undoubtedly a place of suffering.
- Some Christians believe that it is a physical place where people burn eternally
- Others believe that it exists in a more spiritual dimension.
- Most Christians believe that the real torment of hell resides in absolute separation from God

D) 'The Bible needs to be adapted to suit the modern world'.

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AGREE

It was written thousands of years ago, and doesn't answer questions about current moral issues directly. E.g abortion

Although it is considered to be inspired by God, it was written by humans. Can we really prove it is divinely inspired?

The Bible is not scientific – much in the world today relies on scientific investigation

Science wasn't as well developed when the bible was written – we know much more now about creation than when Genesis 1 was first written – evolution/big bang

Many parts of the Bible isn't followed by modern Christians anyway – for example, many work on the Sabbath

The bible might imply that people's human rights can be taken away. 'An eye for an eye' – this doesn't match with modern day views on morality

The bible is complicated and difficult to understand – society is run differently than it was then and life was different

D) 'The Bible needs to be adapted to suit the modern world'.

DISAGREE

Literal Christians view it to be the direct word of God – if we change it, we are going against God's wishes/plans/wants for humanity

It provides a basic morality that comes from God – if we change it, people can choose what they think is right and wrong. This might cause chaos and discrimination in the world

The Bible teaches people to 'love thy neighbour' and 'treat everyone as you would like to be treated' – these are good morals, to enable a good quality of life which is peaceful

If the Bible is changed, then you are not really a true follower of Christianity – you might get sent to hell on the day of judgment

Many people for years have followed the Bible, and done good deeds. Eg Martin Luther King – why does it need to be adapted?

a) Explain what is meant by 'Incarnation'(2)



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God becoming human in the form of Jesus.

How could we develop this further?



a) Explain what is meant by 'Incarnation'(2)

God becoming human in the form of Jesus.

For example, many Christians believe that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, rather than born through sexual intercourse.



b) Explain the purpose of suffering according to a Christian. (5)



b) Explain the purpose of suffering according to a Christian. (5)

- Suffering is a test
- Suffering is a result of sin
- It enables us to become better people 'soul-making – Irenaeus'
- God shares in our suffering and doesn't give us too much that we cannot cope with it
- Suffering is beyond human understanding as God is transcendent, as shown by the story of Job. You must continue to have faith in God, as we were not there at the creation of the world to fully understand.
- 'I spoke of things I did not understand' – Job when he questioned his suffering to God.

c) Explain how Christians believe the world was created, with reference to Genesis 1 and 2. (8)



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Genesis 1:

- Genesis 1 states that 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth'
- It states that he 'spoke things' into existence, which highlights his omnipotence. For example, 'God said: Let there be Light'.
- Genesis 1 shows who God created the world in 6 days, ex-nihilo and rested on the 7th.
- He created all living things, including 'man in our image'.
- God described each stage of creation as 'good'

Genesis 2:

- In Genesis 2, Adam lives in paradise in the Garden of Eden, and God creates a companion from his rib – Eve. 'God made a woman from the rib'
- God gave Adam and Eve the command not to eat from the tree of knowledge.
- The Genesis story is clear that humankind is unique among God's creation as humans were created in his image.

D) “Jesus is not just an ordinary man”



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AGREE:

Christians believe Jesus was the Son of God – God Incarnate

Christians and Muslims believe he could perform miracles – he must not be ordinary

Christians believe Jesus resurrected from the dead 3 days after being crucified

Christians believe that his crucifixion is the sacrifice for humanities sins – it offers atonement and salvation to all humanity, so they can have eternal life with God in heaven

Many Christians argue he cannot be ordinary, as he fulfilled the prophecies written in the book of Isaiah. *‘He was wondered and bruised or our transgressions’*

Muslims believe that Jesus was one of the 5 prophets (Isa), but not God incarnate

Ordinary people do not have millions of followers and the influence to change peoples live and communities. Belief in Jesus continues to do such things,.

As Jesus is one of the most influential figures to ever have live, then he cannot be considered ‘ordinary’

D) “Jesus is not just an ordinary man”

DISAGREE:

Some believe Jesus was simply an ordinary man, who preached a particular ethical code such as ‘love thy neighbour’. E.g. some Humanists believe this.

Jews do not believe Jesus performed miracles, therefore he is simply an ordinary man

Many question if Jesus did really rise from the dead – he didn’t appear to everyone after his resurrection, and there is no empirical evidence of it in today’s society. Jews & Muslims do not accept he rose from the dead.

Many regard Jesus simply as a historical figure, who lived and died like everyone else

How is it possible for someone to rise from the dead? This goes against what is naturally possible. Also, why didn’t he save himself before dying if he was special?

Jews might argue that he is simply ordinary, as they view him to be a rabbi – nothing more than a religious teacher