**AQA Specification: 3.1.2 Christianity**

Students should be aware that Christianity is one of the diverse religious traditions and beliefs in Great Britain today and that the main religious tradition in Great Britain is Christianity. This knowledge may be applied throughout the assessment of the specified content. Students should study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity specified below and their basis in Christian sources of wisdom and authority. They should be able to refer to scripture and/ or sacred texts where appropriate. Some texts are prescribed for study in the content set out below and questions may be set on them. Students may refer to any relevant text in their answers and AQA will publish a list of appropriate texts as part of the supporting material for this specification. These additional texts will not be required for study, alternatives may be used, and questions will not be set on them.

Students should study the influence of the beliefs, teachings and practices studied on individuals, communities and societies. Common and divergent views within Christianity in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed should be included throughout. Students may refer to a range of different Christian perspectives in their answers including Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant. They must study the specific differences identified below.

**3.1.2.2 Practices**

**Worship and festivals**

•• Different forms of worship and their significance:

•• liturgical, non-liturgical and informal, including the use of the Bible

•• private worship.

•• Prayer and its significance, including the Lord’s Prayer, set prayers and informal prayer.

•• The role and meaning of the sacraments:

•• the meaning of sacrament

•• the sacrament of baptism and its significance for Christians; infant and believers’ baptism;

* different beliefs about infant baptism

•• the sacrament of Eucharist (Holy Communion) and its significance for Christians, including different ways in which it is celebrated and different interpretations of its meaning.

•• The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations including:

•• two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage: Lourdes and Iona

•• the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, including their importance for Christians in Great Britain today.

**The role of the church in the local and worldwide community**

•• The role of the Church in the local community, including food banks and street pastors.

•• The place of mission, evangelism and Church growth.

•• The importance of the worldwide Church including:

•• working for reconciliation

•• how Christian churches respond to persecution

•• the work of one of the following: Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD), Christian Aid, Tearfund.