**AQA Specification: 3.1.2 Christian Beliefs**

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.

**3.1.2.1 Beliefs and teachings**

**Key beliefs**

• The nature of God:

• God as omnipotent, loving and just, and the problem of evil and suffering

• the oneness of God and the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

• Different Christian beliefs about creation including the role of Word and Spirit (John 1:1–3 and Genesis 1:1–3).

• Different Christian beliefs about the afterlife and their importance, including:

resurrection and life after death; judgement, heaven and hell.

**Jesus Christ and salvation**

• Beliefs and teachings about:

• the incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God

• the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension

• sin, including original sin

• the means of salvation, including law, grace and Spirit

• the role of Christ in salvation including the idea of atonement.