

Key Concepts			
Resurrection	The raising of the body to life following death. Catholics believe Jesus rose from the dead.	Soul	The spiritual part of a human that can never die. The part created by God that lives on after the death of the body.
Heaven	Eternal existence in God's presence	Hell	The lack of God for all eternity
Magisterium	The teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church that comes from the Pope and Bishops.	Judgement	Judging someone on their actions. Catholics believe God will judge people on how they have lived their lives.
Eternal Life	Spiritual existence in heaven after the death of the body.	Death	The end of physical life. Catholics see death as a change rather than an ending.

<p><u>Catholic beliefs about Eschatology (Death, Judgement, Heaven, Hell & Purgatory)</u></p> <p>In Christianity, eschatology is the study of what happens at the ‘end times’ or the ‘end of the world’. The Catholic Church’s teaching about life after death is summarised in the Four Last Things, 1. Death 2. Judgement 3. Heaven 4. Hell. Although death is the end of our physical lives, Catholics see this as a change rather than a complete ending. Following death, God will judge us and we will either go to heaven, hell or purgatory. Catholics pray for those in purgatory so that they can go to heaven swiftly to be with God.</p>
<p><u>Sources of Authority</u></p> <p>'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother and sister from your heart' Matthews Gospel</p> <p>“Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.” Luke’s Gospel</p> <p>“It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.” St Paul</p>

Catholic beliefs about death	Catholics believe that death is the end of physical life. However, they see this as more of a change than an ending . For instance, they believe that our physical bodies will die (they are buried or cremated) but we will receive a spiritual resurrection body and have the possibility of eternal life with God.
Catholic beliefs about Judgement	Catholics believe that when a person dies, God passes judgement on his or her soul. This is called ‘ particular judgement ’. Each person is responsible for their own actions. There will be a final judgment when the whole of creation will be judged. Catholic beliefs about Judgement are presented in three of Jesus’ parables. The ‘ Sheep & Goats ’ teaches that God will separate the ‘good’ and the ‘bad’ just like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The parable of the ‘ Unmerciful Servant ’ helps Catholics to understand beliefs about forgiveness and life after death. If you are willing to show mercy and forgive others then God will show mercy and forgive you. The parable of the ‘ Rich Man & Lazarus ’ informs Catholics about the type of actions that are required to gain access to heaven with God.
Catholic beliefs about Heaven and Hell	Catholics believe that a person who has lived a holy life will be rewarded with eternal happiness in heaven . Heaven is eternal existence in God’s presence. In the Bible, heaven is often described as a banquet or a feast , but Christian ideas about it vary widely. The Bible teaches that there is no sadness, pain or suffering in heaven. Christianity teaches that hell is a lack of God for all eternity . An unrepentant sinner is someone who does not regret the things they have done wrong and refuses God’s offer of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus.
Catholic beliefs about Purgatory	Catholics believe in a state after death called purgatory . It comes from the word “ purge ”, to cleanse or get rid of sin. They think that most people are not bad enough to go to hell but not good enough to go straight to heaven, as they have sinned in their lives on earth. Purgatory is a state of purifying, a time of cleansing and preparation to enter heaven. St. Paul used the image of fire in his first letter to the Corinthians . Protestant Christians do not accept this idea of Purgatory as there is no mention directly of purgatory in the Bible. Catholics believe that they can help the souls in purgatory by praying for them. There is a long tradition of praying for the dead. Catholics can ask God for mercy to forgive the soul’s sins so that they can enter heaven and have eternal life with God more swiftly.

<p><u>Exam Practice</u></p> <p>d) ‘There is no such thing as purgatory’ (15)</p> <p>b) Describe Catholic beliefs about heaven, hell and purgatory (5)</p>
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