Key Concepts			
Punishment	The consequences or penalty for someone that has committed a crime.	**Absolutism**	The belief that there are certain actions which are always right or always wrong.
Sin	An act against God	**Relativism**	The belief that certain actions are right or wrong depending on the situation or circumstances.
Forgiveness	The act of pardoning someone for the offences they've caused you. Overlooking a person's faults.	**Eucharist**	Meaning "thanksgiving". The sacrament in which Roman Catholics remember the Last Supper.
Salvation	The belief that through Jesus' death and resurrection humanity has achieved the possibility of eternal life.	**Evangelisation**	Spreading the "Good News" which can be translated as "Gospel" The sharing of the Gospel and life of Jesus with others.

Nature of the Church: Mary as Model and the Church as the Body of Christ

In Greek, 'ecclesia' is the word for Church. It means assembly, or gathering together. The Church is the People of God gathered together. The word church with a small c is used to refer to the building where Christians come to pray. When it is written with a capital C, Catholics mean everyone who is a member of the Church, all believers gathered together. The Church is an important idea to Catholics. They believe the Church has four specific marks, Mary is a model for the Church and the Church is the body of Christ in the world today.

Sources of Authority

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ" **St Paul**

"Hail Mary, full of grace…" **Hail Mary**

"We believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church" **Nicene Creed**

"Do not be afraid, Mary…You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus." **Luke's Gospel**

The 4 Marks of the Church (Nature of the Church)	At the **Council of Nicaea**, Church leaders agreed upon a single statement of faith called the **Nicene Creed**. It identifies four marks, or distinguishing qualities, of the Church: 1. **One -** There is **one Church** that passes on the message of **one God**. 2. **Holy -** The **Church is Holy** as it is based on the teachings of Jesus who is the **incarnation.** 3. **Catholic -** It is **Catholic** as the word means **universal** and the Church is for all people 4. **Apostolic** - It is **Apostolic** as the Church was created by the **apostles** and the message has to be spread today.
Mary as a Model of the Church	Catholics hold **Mary** in great honour. She was chosen to be the human **mother of God** the Son, Jesus Christ and you will often hear her described as Mary, Mother of God. **Without Mary, there would be no Jesus, no incarnation and therefore no salvation**. Mary is often called **"Our Lady"** by Catholics. This is a special title given to no one else showing how special she is. All Catholic churches will have a statue of Mary and there is a special devotion to her. The Bible describes Mary as a **perfect disciple (follower of Jesus),** a person of true faith, a model of dedication and an example of flawless charity. Mary is a true disciple. She spent her whole life dedicated to Jesus. In **Luke's Gospel**, Mary was told by the angel that she was to be the mother of Christ, she accepted willingly and joyfully. The Gospels show that Mary was with Jesus throughout his entire life and **present at his crucifixion and resurrection**. As Mary gave her whole life to the **service of Jesus** she is an example of charity. Catholics believe that she acts as a **mediator** between them and God. She will pray to God on their behalf. This is known as **interceding.**
The Church as the Body of Christ	**St Paul** describes the Church as **'the body of Christ'.** This means all members of the Church are **united with Jesus**. He is the head and all those who follow and believe in Jesus make up his body which is the Church. The word Church with a capital 'C' means the **community of Christians** throughout the world. Catholics consider themselves to be the **physical form of Jesus on Earth (the Body of Christ).** This means they must continue with his physical work, such as spreading the **Word of God** and **caring for the sick**. The Church teaches that each person within the Church has a different **talent** that they can use for the good of the Church. In the same way that each part of a body has a different function and is used for the good of the whole body. Christians become part of the Catholic Church, and therefore part of the Body of Christ, through **baptism.**

Exam Practice

b) Describe Catholic teaching on the nature of the Church (The 4 Marks) (5)