

Key Concepts

Magisterium

The teaching authority of the Church, by the Bishops and Pope

Ordinary Magisterium

When the Bishops of the Church teach what the Church has always taught. They teach the basics of the Catholic faith

Extraordinary Magisterium

These are gatherings of the world's bishops and cardinals (there have been 21) to discuss issues of faith

Vatican II

The Catholic Church's response to the challenges of the modern world 1962-65

Forgiveness and Redemption

- Christian teachings about forgiveness
- The meaning and significance of the term "salvation" for Catholics
- The compatibility of a belief in Hell and a belief in the unconditional love of God

Key Sources of Authority

"Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience - those too may achieve eternal salvation." Catechism of the Catholic Church 337

Key Beliefs

Bible teaching on forgiveness

- The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18) - we must forgive as we are forgiven (70 x 7)
- The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6)- 'forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive those who sin against us'
- The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15)- God is the Father who forgives unconditionally; we must not be like the older son who cannot forgive
- Jesus on the cross "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23) is an example to us of how we too must forgive
- The woman caught in adultery (John 8) teaches us that we must forgive others and avoid hypocrisy *"let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!"*
- "You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth'. But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also" (Matthew 5).

How can Catholics achieve Salvation?

By belief in God and Jesus as the Son of God; following the teachings of Jesus; repenting for sin and receiving the Sacraments.

How did Jesus' death bring Salvation?

Jesus is the 'lamb' of God whose sacrifice takes away sin. Jesus paid the price for human sin and restored the relationship between humans and God for all time. Those who believe in Jesus can achieve salvation so he is the saviour of the world.

Can all people achieve Salvation?

In the CCC it says 'outside the Church there is no salvation'. However, Jesus brings salvation to all and others can achieve salvation by God's grace. The most certain route to salvation is to be baptised and a practising Catholic. Some people, however can be 'anonymous Christians' if they do not know Jesus but behave in a Christ-like way. The gift of God's grace is freely given but not forced. Humans have free will and hell is the consequence for those who choose not to accept God's grace and salvation. God does not condemn humans to hell, we choose our eternal destination by our choices in life.

Exam Practice

- What do Catholics mean by the '**Magisterium**'? (2)
- Explain the importance of the **Second Vatican Council**. (8)

Key Connections

- How do the key documents of Vatican II relate to Church teachings on Abortion, Euthanasia and Stewardship?
- How do the key documents of Vatican II relate to the work of CAFOD/ SVP and the Catholic duty to evangelise?