

Religious Education: The Significance of Christmas

Learning objective: To evaluate the significance of Christmas for Christians and reflect on the concepts of hope, generosity, and community.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Christian beliefs and your own reflections to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned answers. Write in full sentences where required.

For Christians, Christmas is a major festival that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, whom they believe to be the Son of God. The period leading up to Christmas is called Advent, a time of preparation and waiting. Many Christian traditions focus on the story of the Nativity, reflecting on themes of humility, light overcoming darkness, and the importance of caring for others.

Word bank: Incarnation · Nativity · Generosity · Hope · Emmanuel · Advent · Community · Peace

1. Identify and explain two reasons why the period of 'Advent' is considered important in the Christian calendar. (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey wants to calculate the cost of a charity meal. If a community group spends £150 on food for 20 people, how much does it cost per person? Why might Christians choose to donate money to charity during the Christmas season? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how the story of the Nativity is celebrated in a church service versus how it is celebrated in a family home. (4 marks)

4. Nova the owl asks: 'Why do Christians believe the birth of Jesus is a symbol of hope?' Explain the theological significance of the Incarnation in your answer. (4 marks)

5. Justify why many people, regardless of their own religion, choose to participate in Christmas traditions such as gift-giving and decorating their homes. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: 'Christmas is more than just a date on the calendar; it is a state of mind.' Write a persuasive response discussing how the values associated with Christmas—such as peace, goodwill, and generosity—can impact a local community throughout the entire year, not just in December. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the concept of 'peace' within a community during the festive season, incorporating symbols that reflect both religious and secular interpretations of the holiday.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research the concept of 'Christingle' services. Explain why the orange, the red ribbon, and the lit candle are used as symbols. What might happen if these symbols were replaced with modern technology? Justify your creative choices.