**IBSL World Religions**

**Possible Paper 2 Essay Questions on Judaism and Christianity**

**OVERVIEW:**

Remember when you really take the Paper 2 Exam you must answer 2 Essay Questions in 1 hour 30 minutes. You should answer 1 Essay Question on Buddhism (so look at essay options #3, 4 and 7) Then you should answer 1 Essay Question about either Judaism or Christianity (so look at options #8, 9, 10, 11, and 14)

That means for your essay on either Judaism or Christianity you will have 5 options to choose from, so don’t panic if you cannot answer every single question option listed below here. But this is a useful list of essay questions you will probably see chosen from on your real IB Exam.

**JUDAISM**

1. **General Questions**
2. Discuss the importance of sacred texts in Judaism.
3. Discuss debates around interpretation of sacred texts in Judaism.
4. Discuss the most significant rituals in Judaism.
5. Discuss Judaism’s understanding of God.
6. Discuss Judaism’s understanding of the human condition.
7. Discuss the importance of group vs individual experience in Judaism.
8. Discuss the significance of death or funeral rites in Judaism.
9. Discuss debates regarding the role of women in Judaism.
10. Discuss the importance of “authority” in Judaism.
11. Discuss Judaism’s views on eschatology.
12. Discuss Judaism’s views on the afterlife.
13. Discuss debates among different types of Judaism.
14. Discuss the significance of prayer for Jewish people.
15. Discuss Jewish beliefs on either abortion, inter-faith marriage, divorce, euthanasia, war/violence or ethical business practices.
16. Discuss the most importance festivals/holidays.
17. Discuss weekly worship practices.
18. Discuss cosmogony and cosmology. (FYI- cosmogony is only CREATION of everything whereas cosmology is both CREATION & EVOLUTION of everything)
19. Discuss Judaism’s views on “conversion” to Judaism.
20. **Specific Questions**
21. Discuss the importance of “covenant”
22. Discuss the importance of “mitzvot” or “mitzvah”
23. To what extant are all Jewish practitioners expected to follow the Torah.
24. Explain the role of Jewish law in the lives of Jewish practitioners.
25. Examine the importance of Kosher laws in Judaism.
26. Discuss the significance of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah for the Jewish community.
27. Discuss the importance of Israel.
28. Discuss the importance of b’rit milah (circumcision)

**CHRISTIANITY**

1. **General Questions**
2. Discuss the importance of sacred texts in Christianity.
3. Discuss debates around interpretation of sacred texts in Christianity.
4. Discuss the most significant rituals in Christianity.
5. Discuss Christianity’s understanding of God.
6. Discuss Christianity’s understanding of the human condition.
7. Discuss the importance of group vs individual experience in Christianity.
8. Discuss the significance of death or funeral rites in Christianity.
9. Discuss debates regarding the role of women in Christianity.
10. Discuss the importance of “authority” in Christianity.
11. Discuss Christianity’s views on eschatology.
12. Discuss Christianity’s views on the afterlife.
13. Discuss debates among different types of Christianity.
14. Discuss the significance of prayer for Christians.
15. Discuss Christian beliefs on either abortion, inter-faith marriage, divorce, euthanasia, war/violence or ethical business practices.
16. Discuss the most important festivals/holidays.
17. Discuss weekly worship practices.
18. Discuss cosmogony and cosmology. (FYI- cosmogony is only CREATION of everything whereas cosmology is both CREATION & EVOLUTION of everything)
19. Discuss Christian views of “conversion” to Christianity.
20. **Specific Questions**
21. Discuss the importance of agape love.
22. Discuss the importance of sacraments across various denominations of Christianity.
23. Discuss views on “grace”
24. Discuss views on “sin”
25. Discuss views on “salvation”
26. Discuss the importance of Jesus to Christianity.