

# Developments in Christian Thought

- Augustine's teaching on human nature
  - Human relationships and The Fall
  - Original Sin and its effects on the will and human societies
  - God's grace
- Death and the afterlife
  - Heaven
  - Hell
  - Purgatory
  - Election
- Knowledge of God's existence
  - Natural knowledge as innate sense of the divine
  - Natural knowledge as seen in the order of creation
  - Revealed knowledge through faith and God's grace
  - Revealed knowledge in Jesus Christ
- The person of Jesus Christ
  - Authority as Son of God
  - Authority as teacher of wisdom
  - Authority as liberator
- Christian moral principles
  - Diversity of Christian moral reasoning and practices
    - Sources of ethics, including the Bible as the only authority
    - Sources of ethics, including the Bible, Church and reason
    - Sources of ethics, including love (agape) as the only ethical principle
- Christian moral action
  - Teaching and example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
    - On duty to God and duty to the state
    - On the Church as the community and source of spiritual discipline
    - On the cost of discipleship
- Religious pluralism and theology
  - exclusivism
  - inclusivism
  - pluralism
- Religious pluralism and society
  - Development of multi-faith societies
  - Christian responses to inter-faith dialogue
  - The scriptural reasoning movement
- Gender and Theology
  - Effects of changing views of gender and gender roles on Christian thought and practice
    - Christian teaching on the roles of men and women in family and society
    - Christian responses to contemporary secular views
  - The reinterpretation of God by feminist theologians
- The challenge of secularism
  - The rise of secularism and secularisation
    - The view that God is an illusion and wish-fulfilment
    - The view that Christianity should play no part in public life
- Liberation Theology and Marx
  - The relationship of liberation theology and Marx
    - Marx's teaching on alienation and exploitation
    - Liberation theology's use of Marx to analyse social sin
    - Liberation theology's teaching on the 'preferential option for the poor'

The first element in the A level syllabus for Developments in Christian Thought is to explore the life and teaching of Saint Augustine of Hippo, a Christian bishop at the beginning of the fifth century.

Saint Augustine is a key thinker and much of what he taught has influenced and continues to influence Christian theology and philosophy and Western society.

The youtube videos are challenging (!) but stick with them. Having watched them, you should be beginning to form a picture of Augustine.

**1. Produce a timeline of the life of Augustine.**



**2. Research and define these KEY TERMS:**

will

Sin

grace

The Fall

Neoplatonism

redeemed

*concordia*

*cupiditas*

*caritas*

concupiscence

*ecclesia*

*summum bonum*

**3. Prepare a presentation**

Research three occasions where apologies have been made for historical events.

The presentation should be about 5 minutes (in a format of your own choice – short essay; powerpoint; video...) to **illustrate and explain why (or why not) it is appropriate to apologise for the mistakes of our ancestors.**