

Christian Worship in Practice: A GCSE RS Cathedral Investigation

Page 1

Deepen students' understanding of Christian beliefs and practices through an enquiry-based visit to Peterborough Cathedral. This GCSE-focused experience provides real-world context for topics including worship, sacraments, prayer, and the role of the Church.

Students explore the Cathedral as a place of liturgical worship, analysing features such as the altar, lectern, vestments, and the Book of Common Prayer. They consider how architecture, symbolism, and ritual communicate meaning and create a sense of the sacred.

A key part of the visit includes observing a Eucharist service, followed by discussion of its significance and different interpretations, including symbolic and real presence.

Students also examine how belief is expressed through community action and baptism, linking to biblical teachings and GCSE content. Throughout, they develop skills in analysis, interpretation, and extended written responses.

- Can be adapted for any exam specification – see links on the next page
- Observe the Eucharistic Service on Wednesdays but a 'staged service' can be organised on other days
- Study workbook for students to record and take away
- Half or Whole Day options

Christian Worship in Practice: A GCSE RS Cathedral Investigation

Page 2

AQA

Christian Practices: Forms of worship, prayer, sacraments (Eucharist, baptism)

Christian Beliefs: The role and significance of Jesus' actions

Denominations: Differences in belief and practice

Religion and Life / Religion and Society: The role of the Church in the community

Edexcel (Pearson)

Religion and Ethics (Christianity): Worship, sacraments, and the role of the Church

Religion, Peace and Conflict / Religion and Society: Community action and moral responsibility

Living the Christian Life: Practices, sources of authority, and expressions of faith

OCR

Christianity Beliefs and Teachings: Key beliefs and their expression

Christianity Practices: Worship, sacraments, and prayer

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics: Ethical behaviour and community responsibility

WJEC / Eduqas

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies

Component 2: Christianity – beliefs, practices, and the role of the Church

Themes: Issues of good and evil, relationships, and community

Skills developed (all exam boards)

AO1: Knowledge and understanding of beliefs and practices

AO2: Analysis and evaluation of religious ideas

Applying religious teachings to real-life contexts

Constructing reasoned, evidence-based arguments

Local History Site Study: Evidence, Interpretation and Change Over Time (GCSE History) – Page 1

Develop students' historical enquiry skills through an in-depth investigation of Peterborough Cathedral as a local study site. This GCSE-focused session uses a wide range of primary and secondary sources to explore how the site has changed from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day.

Students examine both written sources (including Bede, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, and later historians) and physical evidence such as the Hedda Stone, architecture, and surviving features of the Cathedral. They evaluate different interpretations of the past, considering how evidence can support competing theories about objects, events, and use of the site.

Through guided investigation, students explore key periods including:

- The Anglo-Saxon monastery and Viking destruction
- The Norman rebuilding and development of the Cathedral
- Monastic life and the impact of the Reformation
- The English Civil War, analysing contemporary accounts of destruction
- Victorian restoration and modern use, considering continuity and change

Students are challenged to ask historical questions, analyse reliability, and make supported judgements. Activities are designed to mirror GCSE exam skills, including source analysis, interpretation, and extended explanation.

Local History Site Study: Evidence, Interpretation and Change Over Time (GCSE History) – Page 2

AQA GCSE History

Historic Environment (Paper 2):

Understanding a site in its historical context using physical features and contemporary sources

Skills:

Source analysis (AO3)

Interpretation of historical interpretations (AO4)

Understanding change and continuity over time (AO2)

Edexcel (Pearson) GCSE History

Historic Environment (Paper 1):

Investigating a site linked to a specific period, using both visual and written sources

Skills:

Using sources for enquiry (AO3)

Analysing interpretations (AO4)

Knowledge of features and significance (AO1/AO2)

OCR GCSE History (A & B)

History Around Us (Site Study):

Exploring a local site across time, focusing on function, structure, and change

Skills:

Analysis of physical remains and sources (AO3)

Evaluating interpretations (AO4)

Understanding continuity and change (AO2)

Eduqas (WJEC) GCSE History

Site Study / Historic Environment:

Understanding a historic site in relation to broader historical developments

Skills:

Source evaluation and utility (AO3)

Interpretation analysis (AO4)

Cause, consequence, and change over time (AO2)

Cross-Board Themes

Local history investigation Use of primary and secondary evidence

Interpretation and debate Change, continuity, cause, and significance