



Christian Practices

Keyword	Definition
Agape	A word used in the Bible that describes selfless unconditional love.
Baptism	The ritual though which people become members of the Church; baptism involves the use of water as a symbol of the washing away of sin.
Believers baptism	Initiation into the Church , by immersion in water, of people old enough to understand the ceremony.
Christmas	The day commemorating the incarnation, the birth of Jesus. Also the season of 2 days ending with the epiphany (the visit of the wise men.)
Church	1) The holy people of God 2) A building in which Christians worship
Easter	The religious season celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
Evangelism	Spreading the Christian gospel by public preaching
Festival	A day or period of celebration for religious reasons
Infant baptism	The ritual through which babies and young children become members of the Church, where promises are taken on their behalf by adults.
Informal worship	A type of non liturgical worship, sometimes ‘spontaneous’ in nature
Holy Communion	A service of thanksgiving in which the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated using breads and wine. Also called Eucharist or Mass.
Liturgical worship	A church service that follows a set structure or ritual
Mission	Vocation or calling to go out and spread the faith.
Nonconformist	An English Protestant who does not conform to the doctrines or practices of the established Church of England.
Non Liturgical worship	A Service that does not follow a set text or ritual.
Persecution	Hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race , or political or religious beliefs.
Pilgrimage	A journey by a believer to a holy site for religious reasons.
Prayer	Communicating with God.
Private worship	When a believer praises or honours God on his or her own.
Reconciliation	The restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down.
Sacraments	Rites and rituals through which the believer receives a special gift grace ; for Catholics, Anglican and many Protestants, Sacraments are ‘outward signs of inward grace.’
Set prayers	Prayers that have been written down and said more than once by more than one person. Eg The Lord’s Prayer
Worship	Acts of religious praise, honour or devotion

Worship



Liturgical: This is a service that follows the same set pattern each time. A priest leads the congregation in formal prayers that have set responses. They also may perform symbolic actions with specific meanings. There is a worldwide set order of service that is familiar to all, even visitors. The ritual has been passed down through generations, giving a sense of tradition. An example of liturgical worship is the celebration of the Eucharist for Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican churches.

Non-liturgical/informal: This is worship that does not have to be a set order or ritual.

The basic structure of the service might remain the same each week but the preacher may change the order, the number of hymns or types of prayer.

Quaker worship is mainly silent and informal. Some informal worship, like that of the Pentecostal Church, is ‘charismatic’ (that is, ‘led by the Spirit’) and may involve dancing, clapping or calling out.

Christians can share personal interpretations of the Bible and take an active part in church.



Private Worship: Allows individuals to spend time with God. Can be done alone or with family.

Why?

Prayer is communicating with god in silence or aloud with others or alone using set prayers or informal prayers.

Sometimes Christians say a **set prayer** before eating a meal to thank god for providing what they need to live. Other Christians might pray **spontaneously** for their meal using there own words in an **informal prayer**

Prayer

Our father in heaven, hallowed be you name,
Your kingdom done, your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The importance of the Lords Prayer

Individual: Pattern for how to pray as it combines praise and asking for ones needs

Community: Gives congregation a communal feeling. Said at Holy communion, marriages, baptisms and funerals.

How?



People may pray kneeling down sometimes with hands pressed together. In orthodox services people stand to pray, nonconformist often sit Anglicans may kneel and other Christians may raise their hands to invite the holy spirit into their life.. Catholics may use a rosary, while orthodox Christians use icons to aid prayer.

Influence of prayer?

Christians can find peace through prayer and meditation.

Christians find a sense of connection with God in their everyday life.

Prayer encourages a routine for reflection in busy lives.

It can give them strength in times on trouble.

The Sacraments:

Sacraments are Holy rituals that express a spiritual experience. They involve symbolic actions, words and physical elements. Many Christians believe that sacraments are special rituals which help to strengthen their relationship with God by making him part of their life.

Baptism



Why do people get baptised?

- To become a member of the Christian Church.
- To be acknowledge as a child of God
- To receive God's saving grace
- Sins are forgiven and a new life with Jesus begins.



Jesus' example:

John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the Jordan River. Jesus set an example for his followers to be baptised in order to receive the Holy Spirit

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
(Matthew 28:19)

Contrasting ways

Infant baptism

Removes original sin

Welcomed into the church

Parents thank God for their baby.

The priest or minister says 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit.' While pouring water over the head of the baby

God parents and parents make a promise to bring up the child in the Christian faith.

Other symbols such as the sign of the cross on the baby's forehead, the Paschal candle are sued.



Believer's baptism

People wait until they are old enough to make a decision about their faith.

Baptism itself does not save a person; what is important is living a life dedicated to Jesus.

Full immersion in a pool which symbolises the cleansing of sin and the rising up of a new life. The minster baptises them and says "I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit."

The minister talks about the importance of baptism and asks the person if they are willing to change their lives.



Holy Communion

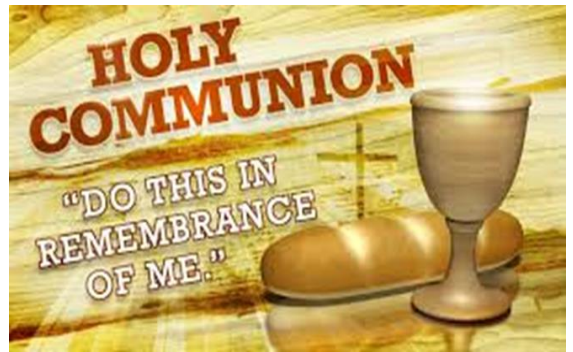
What:

- The holy communion is a sacrament, that uses bread and wine to celebrate Jesus' sacrifice and his resurrection; it recalls the last supper.
- During the holy communion, Christians give thanks to God for his sending of Jesus to save people from sin.
- Also known as the Eucharist (which literally means 'thanksgiving')

"The lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread and he broke it and said 'This is my body, which is for you'. In the same way he took the cup saying 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me'"
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

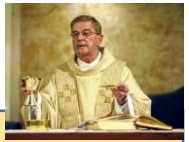
Why:

- An act of fellowship and communion with God
- Protestants believe the holy communion is a reminder of Jesus' words and actions and the last supper.
- Holy Communion encourages Christians to put the love they have experienced from God into practice by loving others



The Orthodox Church:

- Much of the service takes place on the altar behind a screen called an iconostasis. This represents the divide between heaven and earth.
- The church is filled with candles/ incense to feel God's presence.
- There are hymns, prayers and readings from the Bible
- Behind closed doors, the priest says the words Jesus said at the last supper.
- The bread is divided into 4:
- 3 parts are declared as the body and blood of Christ, these are given to the congregation on a spoon.
- The 4th piece is divided into small pieces and given to people to take home as a sign of being part of the Christian community.



Catholic Mass:

- Mass begins with a greeting from the priest, and prayers or penance and praise (the 'Gloria.')
- There are 3 readings from the Bible, a psalm and a homily.
- People say prayers for the Church, the world, the local community, the sick and the dead.
- Offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar.
- The priest says the Eucharist Prayer using words of Jesus at the last supper.
- The people say the Lord's prayer
- The priest and congregation give a sign of peace to each other.
- The congregation come forward to receive communion.
- The priest blesses the people and tells them, for example, 'Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives.'

4 contrasting ways of celebrating Holy Communion



The Anglican Church:

- A communion service in the Church of England is almost identical to that of the Catholic Church.
- Catholics do the sign of peace to each other after the Lord's Prayer, Anglicans do it before the offerings of bread and wine are brought to the altar.
- Some believe that the bread and wine is transformed into Christ's body and blood, but many believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine in a spiritual way.
- The main emphasis is on the community meal being shared equally with all.



Non conformist Churches

An example from The United reform:

- The service begins with a hymn and a prayer of praise and thanksgiving
- Bible reading and a sermon.
- The congregation pray for the world and for the needs of particular people.
- The minister reminds the congregation of Jesus' words and action at the last supper. They then say a prayer of thanksgiving over them.
- There is an open table anyone who wishes to take communion may receive the bread and wine.
- There is a prayer of thanksgiving, blessing and an encouragement to go out and serve God.



Pilgrimage

What: A journey by a believer to a holy site

Why go? / How does it influence a Christian?

Why go on a pilgrimage?

- Grow closer to God
- Express sorrow for sin and be forgiven
- Reflect on life, particularly when facing a crisis or big decision.
- To gain better understanding of their faith.
- To be cleansed from sin



Lourdes:

What it is:

Lourdes in South-west France is a place of pilgrimage dedicated to Mary. Thousands of pilgrims visit Lourdes to pray at the grotto where Mary appeared, to bathe in the water that is claimed to have healed 67 miracles and 6000 other cures.

What they do:

- People go to the grotto of the Virgin Mary
- They pray and bathe in holy waters
- Many of the pilgrims are disabled so they have able-bodied helpers.

"As I raised my head to look at the grotto, I saw a lady dressed in white, wearing a white dress, a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same colour as the chain of her rosary; the beads of the rosary were white"

Bernadette describing her first vision of the virgin Mary.



Contrasting pilgrimages

Iona:

What it is:

Iona is an island off the west coast of Scotland. In the 6th Century AD St Columba (An Irish missionary) brought Christianity to Scotland and established a Monastery on Iona. It is now a place of pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Some believe it is a 'thin place' where the physical world meets the spiritual world and that God's true nature is revealed here.

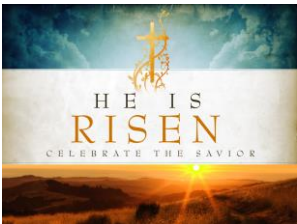
What they do

- They go on a 7 mile hike to the island's most holy places
- They conduct hands on, practical Christian workshops
- There is a reflection time where they read the bible.

Remember!
A pilgrimage is much more than a holiday. It can have a profound effect on the individual and the Christian community.

Festivals

Festivals have an important role in helping Christians remember the major events in their religion and plan their public worship. Christians remember that God gave his only son to save them.



Christmas

Remembers the Incarnation of Jesus.

Celebrations last 12 days ending with the feast of the Epiphany.

Trees and homes are decorated with lights and nativity scenes.

Lights represent Jesus as the light coming into the world of darkness.

Many Churches have carol services with reading from the Bible showing God's promise of a saviour and the events of Jesus' birth,.

It is seen as a time of 'peace and goodwill' when Christians give to charity as God gave the gift of Jesus.

Easter

Easter is the most important Christian festival as it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

During the week leading up to Easter (Holy Week) Christians remember the events that led to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Jesus was crucified on 'Good Friday'. Special services are held and processions in the streets are led by a person carrying a cross.

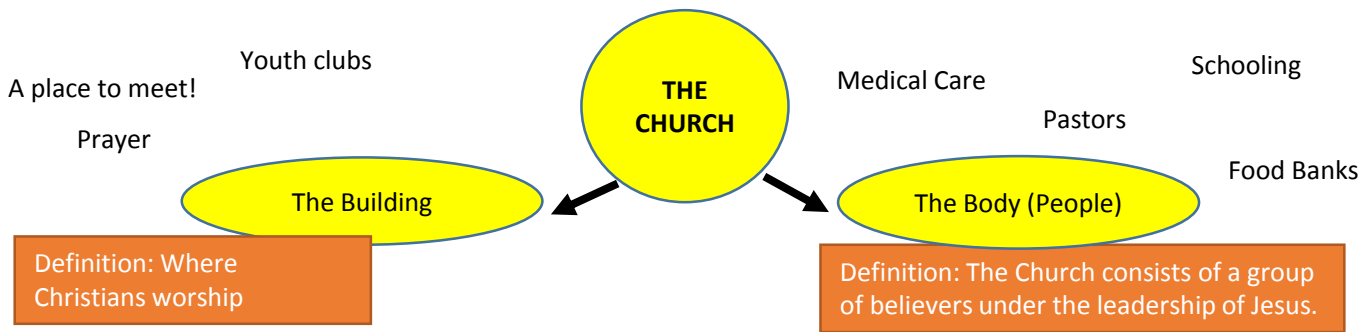
On Easter Sunday Churches are filled with flowers and special hymns are sung to celebrate the resurrection.

Orthodox Christians:
Walk around the church a midnight on Sat and enter Church (symbolising tomb). Priest "Christ is risen", Procession "he is risen indeed"

Catholic & C of E
Begin in darkness at Church and then light Paschal candle (symbolising the risen Christ) and ends in communion.

Other
Some organise outdoor, sharing breakfast – eggs (symbolising new life)

The role of the Church in the local community



Food banks



The Oasis Project

The Oasis Project of the Plymouth Methodist Mission Circuit is a community hub with an internet café, creative courses, a job club, training opportunities and a base for meetings. Around 200 people use the centre each week.

The Trussell Trust

Trussell Trust food banks provide emergency food, help and support to people in crisis in the UK. Aim is to bring people together to work towards ending poverty and hunger in Britain. Rising prices, cuts in welfare benefits, redundancy, family breakdown, and an unexpected expense may all contribute to an emergency situation.

Street Pastors

Street pastors

They aim to help and care for vulnerable people in practical ways:

- working with councils, police and the communities.
- listening to peoples problems,
- giving guidance to discourage anti-social behaviour.

They are backed up by prayer partners, who pray for street pastors.

They do not actively preach to people.



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me..."

Matthew 25:35-36 (The parable of the sheep and the goats)



"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

(James 2:17)

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25–37.

A traveller is stripped of clothing, beaten, and left half dead alongside the road.

First a priest and then a Levite comes by, but both avoid the man.

Finally, a **Samaritan** happens upon the traveller.

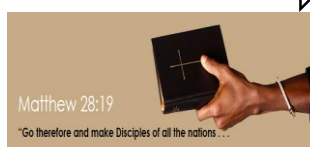
Jesus used the parable to teach people to 'Love thy neighbour' by helping all people no matter who they are.

GO!

Mission and Evangelism

*Therefore **go** and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the son of the holy spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*
– Matthew 28:19–20

This tells Christians to.....



...know Jesus and to go and make him known to others. They have a **responsibility** to tell others about their faith.

How do they spread their faith?

Through everyday life, through organised events and preaching.

Mission

Examples of sharing faith:

- The church provides a place to worship and learn about God.
- It has a **mission** to spread the good news to non-believers that Jesus is the son of God.
- Christians are not only called to know Jesus in their lives but also to make him known to others.
- When the disciples received the holy spirit at Pentecost, ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven this gave them gifts to carry out the great commission.
- Christians have the responsibility according to the Great commission C to tell others their faith, by doing this they may spread the word to people.
- Being a missionary it involves evangelism and in some cases humanitarian work among the poor.
- Their main aim is to persuade people to accept Jesus and to extend the church in every nation.

REMINDER!

Mission: the vocation or calling of a religious organisation or individual to go out into the world and spread their faith.

Missionary: A person sent on a religious mission (esp preaching or charitable work)

The Baptist World Mission:

Aims to change 1 million lives by 2020 through seven key ministries: church, development, education, health, justice, leadership and relief.

Examples include

- Training teachers in Nepal
- Sending experienced midwives to train others in Chad
- BMS lawyers providing access to justice to the most vulnerable in Uganda.

Alpha

Originally known as the alpha course, alpha started in 1977.

- The aim was to help church members understand the basics of Christian faith
- The organisers described this evangelistic course as an opportunity to explore the meaning of life through a series of talks and discussions.
- In the 1990s the Reverend Nicky Gumbel from holy trinity, Brompton was involved in revising the course and encouraging its use.
- Alpha courses take place not only on church premises but also in people's homes, universities, work places, and other venues.
- Millions of people have taken part in this course.
- There are also related courses including relationship and marriage courses for adults and study programs for young people.



Church Growth

Church Growth



WHAT

The Christian Church has been growing quite rapidly over quite a lot of the World.

- In 1910 there were 291 million Catholics.
- In 2010 there were nearly 1.1 billion Catholics.
- Worldwide, around 80,000 people become Christian every day and 500 churches are formed.
- The Church is growing most rapidly in South America, Africa and Asia.
- There are currently somewhere between 1.5 and 2.5 billion Christians in the world.

WHY

Many people believe that it is their destiny to share the good news of Christ and spread Christianity around the world. Creating Disciples not just new converts.

- Ways of spreading the word include; inviting people to Christian meetings, praying and advertising the story of Christianity via different forms of media. E.g. Facebook, Twitter, newspapers and God TV.
- God TV is a channel dedicated completely to showing Christian TV shows.

There are also many different charities which are devoted to helping the Church grow.

HOW

- One charity is called Christ for all Nations (CfAN)
- This charity, like many others, aims to spread the word as far around the world, and to as many people, as possible.
- It was founded by a man called Reinhard Bonnke who believed that spreading the word was his destiny and has even published books which have been translated into over a hundred languages.

The worldwide Church working for reconciliation



Reconciliation, by Josefina de Vasconcellos, in [St. Michael's Cathedral](#), Coventry.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”
Matthew 23-24

These quote shows the Christians should be reconciled with God and to one another.

Jesus came so that the relationship with God could be healed (link to atonement)

Through Christ's grace it was made possible for 'God enemies' (humankind) to be forgiven and become his friends.

“For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!” *Romans 5:10*

Irish Churches Peace Project:

Set up after sections of the Church fell out and fought each other (in Northern Island the Catholics and the Protestants)

Community of the Cross of Nails (at Coventry Cathedral):

Set up after the bombing of Cathedral in WWII and local Christians wished to forgive, not get revenge.

The worldwide Church working against persecution

In 2012 Christians were discriminated against in 139 countries . The persecution ranges from forcing Christians to pay more tax, not allowing them to have certain jobs, having their homes attacked and not being allowed to build churches. The Church gives support through prayer, raising awareness and practical aid.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.” *Matthew 5:10*

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”
John 15: 18-19

This gives Christians a reward for their persecution. If it is endured then they will be rewarded in heaven. It also gives Christians a sense of belonging knowing that others are persecuted.

Jesus warned Christians to expect persecution as if they persecuted him, then they would persecute them. This gives Christians a sense of resilience that they are going through the same things as Jesus for the same reasons.

Examples



The Corrymeela Community

It began in 1965 by Ray Davey. The community seeks to promote harmony and reconciliation. Those who attend are given an opportunity to listen to each other and explore ways of moving from violence and distrust to working together constructively.



The Barabas Fund

Sends financial support to projects that help Christians suffering from discrimination, oppression and persecution because of their faith.



Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)

Campaigns for religious freedom by:

- 1 Documenting and raising awareness.
- 2 influencing government who affect oppressed.
- 3 Offering training in human rights' law
- 4 Helping oppressed speak up.

CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



Pastor Baber George: Imprisoned for being in a gang war. Became a Christian and then was accused by extreme Muslims of blaspheming against Islam. They fled when a fatwa (death sentence) was issued and the Barnabas fund paid his rent and food.

Should help be given to Christians who are being discriminated against and persecuted?

YES:	No:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Everyone deserves equalityIt is charitable to help people in needSome people are driven out of their countries therefore need financial to help them resettleIt can make them vulnerable therefore they need support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Christians can persecute against other people (minorities)It helps them test their faithMoney could be given to those MORE in needGod will help them anyway

The Church’s response to world poverty

“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*Mark 10:21*

“if anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth”- *1 John 3:17-18*

Many charities follow the teaching and example of Jesus in working to relieve poverty. Jesus told a rich man to sell everything and give to poor.



Christians believe they should present Jesus to the world through helping the disadvantage.

Charities that combat world poverty

Christian Aid:

Christian aid is the official relief and development agency for 41 church denominations in Britain and Ireland. Begun in 1945 they aim to encourage sustainable development, stop poverty and provide emergency relief in Africa, Asia, the middle east, south America and Caribbean.

Tear fund:

A organisation called the evangelical alliance launched Tear fund – known at first as the evangelical alliance relief fund. Across the UK, churches donate, hold fundraising events , pray and raise awareness to make possible the work of Tear fund. And in nearly 50 countries around the world, Tear fund works closely with local churches to enable the world's poorest people to work themselves out of crushing poverty.

Catholic Agency for overseas Development (CAFOD)

Official aid agency. Brings hope and compassion to all faiths and non in poor communities in Africa, Asia, the Middle east and south America. Catholic Church believes that action needs to be taken to remedy the injustice of people suffering while others have so much.

They increase access to clean water and education and healthcare. It helps those who have lost everything rebuild their lives.

The rich man and Lazarus



- A beggar named Lazarus lay outside a rich man's gate.
- Lazarus was hungry and his body was covered with sores.
- He was hoping that the rich man might have pity on him and that he might be able to satisfy his hunger with the leftovers from the rich man's table.
- But every day the rich man passed by Lazarus without even giving him a thought.
- Lazarus died and went to heaven.
- The rich man also died, but he went to hell.
- In hell, he looked up and saw Lazarus in heaven with Abraham.
- He asked Abraham to let Lazarus dip his finger in water and come and touch it to his burning tongue, but Abraham said, "No." Then he reminded the rich man how he had enjoyed such good things on earth while Lazarus had nothing.

The rich man then asked Abraham to allow Lazarus to go back to earth and warn his five brothers so that they would not end up in hell with him, but again, Abraham said, "No."

See Religion and Social Justice theme for lots of links with Christianity and wealth and poverty. You can use the same teachings in both papers!

Practice questions

Two mark questions

- Give two examples of the work of the Church in the local community.
- **Give two ways in which Christian churches respond to persecution.**
- Give two ways Christians worship.
- Give two reasons Christians might go on a pilgrimage.

Four mark questions

- Explain two contrasting ways in which the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated in Christianity.
- **Explain two contrasting examples of Christian pilgrimage.**
- **Explain two contrasting ways Christians worship.**
- **Explain two contrasting ways of baptising in Christianity.**

Five mark questions

- Explain two ways in which Christian street pastors carry out their Christian duty.
- **Explain two ways in which a worldwide Christian relief organisation carries out its mission overseas.**
- **Explain two ways Christians celebrate the birth and death of Jesus.**
- **Explain two ways Christians can spread the word of God.**

Refer to scripture or sacred writing in your answer

Twelve mark questions

- ‘The best way for Christians to reach an understanding of God is by practising prayer.’
- ‘Private worship has more meaning for a Christian than public worship.’
- ‘The most important part of Christianity is evangelism.’
- ‘Pilgrimage is not an essential part of Christianity.’

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- ***refer to Christian teaching***
- ***give developed arguments to support this statement***
- ***give developed arguments to support a different point of view***
- ***reach a justified conclusion***