



CLASSROOM 42

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

**IN THE LOCAL AND
WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY**

**AQA GCSE
RELIGIOUS STUDIES A**



TEACHER ANSWER BOOKLET

NAME: _____

CLASS: _____



THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

YOUR LEARNING JOURNEY

BIG QUESTION

How does the Church serve people locally and worldwide?

1



1. LOCAL ACTION

Food banks and
Street Pastors

2



2. GROWING THE CHURCH

Mission, evangelism
and Church growth

3



3. WORLDWIDE ACTION

Reconciliation, persecution
and Christian Aid

4



4. EXAM SUCCESS

Explain, compare
and evaluate

BASELINE CHECK

What do you already know?

Church: the worldwide Christian community;
also a local congregation or building

mission: work Christians believe God
calls the Church to do

reconciliation: rebuilding damaged relationships
and seeking peace

persecution: serious unfair treatment because
of religious belief or identity

CONFIDENCE

Circle one: 1 2 3 **4** 5

PERSONAL TARGET

By the end of this topic, I want to be able to...

explain local and worldwide Church action using
accurate examples and Christian teaching



ONE CHURCH, TWO SCALES

KEY IDEA



Church can mean the **worldwide** Christian community.
church can mean a **local** congregation or building.



LOCAL CHURCH

- serves neighbours
- responds to local need
- builds relationships
- shares Christian faith



WORLDWIDE CHURCH

- works across countries
- supports Christians facing persecution
- promotes reconciliation
- partners for relief and development

TASK 1

Sort each action into **LOCAL**, **WORLDWIDE** or **BOTH**.

A. volunteers at a food bank

B. campaigns for religious freedom

C. shares the gospel

D. supports emergency relief overseas

E. runs a youth club

F. prays for peace

LOCAL

A. volunteers at a food bank

E. runs a youth club

BOTH

C. shares the gospel

F. prays for peace

WORLDWIDE

B. campaigns for religious freedom

D. supports emergency relief overseas

TASK 2

Explain why action C could fit more than one column.

C fits BOTH because a local Christian may share the gospel in a personal conversation, while churches also evangelise across countries through mission and media.

CHECKPOINT

A local church and the worldwide Church are **connected**, but they are not identical.

THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

WHY CHRISTIANS SERVE



CHRISTIAN TEACHING

Matthew 25:35–40

Jesus teaches that helping a person in need is like serving him.

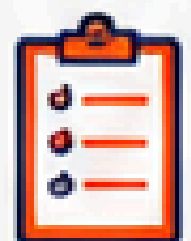
Luke 10:25–37

The Good Samaritan shows practical love across social boundaries.



FROM BELIEF TO ACTION

TEACHING	CHRISTIAN BELIEF	POSSIBLE CHURCH ACTION
Matthew 25:35–40	every person has dignity	organise food, clothing or shelter for people in need
Luke 10:25–37	love your neighbour	Street Pastors offer practical care to strangers
Jesus' example	faith should be lived	volunteers serve others with compassion



TASK 1

Complete the final column with a specific local action.



KEY WORDS

agape — selfless Christian love

vocation — a calling to serve

stewardship — responsible care



CHALLENGE

Is practical help more convincing than words?
Give one reason.

Practical help can be convincing because people see Christian love in action.
Words may still explain the belief behind the service, so the strongest witness may use both.



TASK 2

Choose one teaching. Explain how it could influence a Christian to help the local community. [4 marks]

Matthew 25:35–40 may influence a Christian to volunteer at a food bank because Jesus teaches that serving a person in need is like serving him. The action puts faith into practice.



THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

HOW FOOD BANKS WORK



TASK 1 Use the support bank to complete the table.

SUPPORT BANK

donations • sorted and stored • referral or voucher • emergency food • wider advice and support

STAGE	WHAT HAPPENS
1. GIVE	people and churches donate suitable food and essentials
2. PREPARE	volunteers sort, check and store donations
3. REFER	a community professional identifies need and gives a voucher or referral
4. SUPPORT	the food bank provides emergency food and may connect people with wider advice



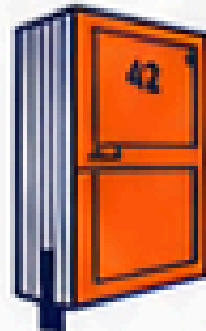
APPLIED CASE STUDY

A family is referred to a food bank after a sudden loss of income. Explain two ways a church can support the food bank. [4 marks]

One way is providing volunteers who sort donations and welcome people, allowing the food bank to operate efficiently.
Another way is giving a venue or regular donations, which increases the practical support available to families.



COMMON MISTAKE: Not every food bank is run by a church. Churches may provide volunteers, donations, venues and leadership.



STREET PASTORS

? WHAT ARE STREET PASTORS?

Trained Christian volunteers from different churches who care for people’s safety and wellbeing, often working alongside local services.



THEIR ROLE

- listen
- reassure
- give practical help
- support vulnerable people
- build trust

SCENARIO SORT

For each situation, choose the best first response and explain why.

		BEST FIRST RESPONSE	WHY?
1.	A young person is alone and distressed.	<i>listen and reassure; stay with them</i>	<i>because calm support reduces vulnerability</i>
2.	Two people are arguing outside a venue.	<i>keep a safe distance and de-escalate; call police if risk rises</i>	<i>because volunteers must protect safety</i>
3.	Someone is cold and cannot contact a friend.	<i>offer a warm layer and phone; help contact a friend</i>	<i>because this is practical care</i>
4.	A person needs urgent medical help.	<i>call emergency services and stay nearby</i>	<i>because urgent medical help needs trained professionals</i>

APPLIED QUESTION

Explain two ways Street Pastors show Christian service in a local community. [4 marks]

Street Pastors listen to distressed people and reassure them, showing Christian compassion. They also give practical help, such as warmth or help contacting a friend, putting love of neighbour into action.

CAREFUL

Street Pastors are volunteers, not police officers or paramedics. They contact emergency services when necessary.

THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

COMPARE LOCAL ACTION



FOOD BANKS



- immediate material need
- donations and volunteers
- referral and emergency food
- wider advice may be offered



STREET PASTORS



- night-time safety and wellbeing
- trained Christian volunteers
- listening and practical care
- work alongside local services



TASK 1 Complete the comparison grid.

FEATURE	FOOD BANKS	STREET PASTORS	BOTH
main need addressed	immediate material need	safety and wellbeing	respond to local need
Christian action	donations, emergency food	listening, reassurance, practical care	service and agape
possible limitation	depends on referrals and resources	limited powers and operating times	may treat symptoms rather than causes



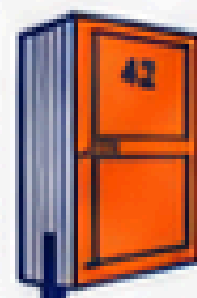
TASK 2 Which response is more effective for building trust in a community?
Make a judgement and justify it with evidence.

Street Pastors may build trust more directly because repeated face-to-face listening develops relationships. Food banks also build trust through reliable practical support. Street Pastors are more effective by the criterion of personal relationship, although the judgement depends on local need.



EXAM LINK

A strong judgement uses a clear criterion, relevant evidence and a reasoned conclusion.



MISSION, EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH



MISSION

The work Christians believe God calls the Church to do.
May include service, justice, worship and sharing faith.



EVANGELISM

Sharing the Christian gospel with others.
May happen through words, relationships and public teaching.



CHURCH GROWTH

Growth in numbers, commitment, holiness or positive influence.
It is not only about attendance.



LINK THE IDEAS

MISSION | EVANGELISM | CHURCH GROWTH

one possible relationship,
not an automatic sequence



TASK 1

Match each example to the best term.

- A a church opens a debt-advice project
- B a Christian explains why Jesus matters to them
- C more people join a congregation
- D members deepen their prayer and service

- mission
- evangelism
- Church growth
- Church growth



TASK 2

Explain two ways evangelism may lead to Church growth. [4 marks]

Evangelism may lead people to understand Christian beliefs and decide to join a church, increasing participation. It may also deepen existing Christians' commitment because explaining faith can strengthen understanding and service.



COMMON MISTAKE

Mission is wider than evangelism, and Church growth is wider than numbers.



GROWING THE CHURCH

MISSION IN PRACTICE



CHRISTIAN TEACHING

Matthew 28:19–20

Jesus sends his followers to make disciples and teach others.



CASE STUDY

Hope Church begins a free weekly meal. Volunteers listen to guests, offer optional prayer, explain their Christian motivation when asked and invite people to community events.



TASK 1

Identify evidence of:

MISSION	EVANGELISM	POSSIBLE CHURCH GROWTH
free weekly meal; listening and service	optional prayer; explains Christian motivation when asked	invitations and relationships may lead to participation



TASK 2

Draw arrows to show how one action could lead to another.

SERVICE	→	RELATIONSHIP	→	CONVERSATION	→	PARTICIPATION
SERVICE meets a need → RELATIONSHIP builds trust → CONVERSATION may explain faith → PARTICIPATION may grow possible pathway, not guaranteed						



TASK 3

Explain why Christians may disagree about the best way to evangelise.

Christians may disagree because some prefer public preaching while others favour relationship-based witness and service. They may also judge differently how to share faith without pressuring people, especially when someone is vulnerable.



ETHICAL CHECK

Respect matters. Evangelism should not exploit need or pressure people.



THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH

ONE FAITH, MANY COMMUNITIES

TEACHER ANSWERS



WORLDWIDE CHURCH

Christians and churches across countries, cultures and denominations.

THREE RESPONSIBILITIES

 RECONCILIATION	 PERSECUTION	 RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT
 • help repair relationships • promote dialogue • seek justice and peace	 • pray and show solidarity • speak up for religious freedom • give practical support	 • respond to emergencies • work with local partners • challenge poverty and injustice

 **TASK 1** Add one realistic example to each responsibility.

churches host dialogue after conflict and help groups reach a fair agreement

Christians pray, advocate for religious freedom and give safe practical support

Christian Aid works with a local partner after flooding and supports long-term recovery

 **TASK 2** What do all three responsibilities have in common?

All three put Christian faith into action by protecting dignity, serving people in need and cooperating across communities. Each combines a global concern with local knowledge and relationships.

 **BIG IDEA** The worldwide Church can act globally while working through local communities.





RECONCILIATION



DEFINITION

Reconciliation means rebuilding damaged relationships and seeking peace.



CHRISTIAN TEACHING

Matthew 5:9

Jesus blesses people who make peace.

Matthew 5:44

Jesus teaches love for enemies.



A CHRISTIAN PROCESS

1 LISTEN



hear experiences without interruption

2 ACKNOWLEDGE HARM



recognise truth and impact

3 SEEK JUSTICE



make fair repair and protect safety

4 FORGIVE



release revenge; justice may still be needed

5 REBUILD TRUST



changed behaviour over time



CASE STUDY

After violence between two communities, churches provide a neutral meeting place, invite people to share experiences and support a fair agreement.



TASK 1

Annotate the case study with three stages from the process.

neutral meeting place = dialogue
share experiences = listen and acknowledge harm
fair agreement = seek justice and rebuild trust



IMPORTANT

Reconciliation does not mean ignoring harm. Justice and safety still matter.



TASK 2

Explain why forgiveness alone may not create lasting reconciliation.

Forgiveness may change an attitude, but lasting reconciliation also needs truth, justice, safety and changed behaviour. Without these, the harm may continue and trust cannot be rebuilt.



RESPONDING TO PERSECUTION



DEFINITION

Persecution is serious unfair treatment because of religious belief or identity.

CHRISTIAN RESPONSES



PRAYER

- remember people who suffer
- ask for courage and peace



4

example ranking



SOLIDARITY

- listen to testimonies
- show people they are not forgotten



3



ADVOCACY

- contact decision-makers
- defend freedom of religion or belief



2



PRACTICAL SUPPORT

- support safe shelter, legal help or emergency needs



1



SCENARIO

A Christian community cannot meet safely and several families have lost work because of their faith.



TASK 1

Rank the four responses for this situation. Justify your top choice.

4

3

2

1

Practical support is first because families face immediate loss of work and safety.
 Advocacy may challenge the cause, while solidarity and prayer sustain courage.
 Other rankings are valid if well justified.



TASK 2

Explain two contrasting pressures Christians may face when responding to persecution.

Christians may feel pressure to speak publicly for religious freedom, but publicity could endanger the community, so safety must be protected.
 They may also feel called to forgive and love enemies while still seeking justice and defending people from further harm.



CAREFUL

Responses should protect people's safety and dignity. Avoid stereotypes about any country or religion.



CHRISTIAN AID



WHO?

A Christian organisation that works with churches, local partners and communities.



WHAT?

- EMERGENCY RESPONSE support after crisis
- LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT help communities build secure livelihoods and services
- CAMPAIGNING challenge causes of poverty and injustice



HOW?

- local partnership
- community knowledge
- practical support
- advocacy for change



CASE STUDY

After severe flooding, a local partner provides emergency supplies. It later helps communities restore livelihoods and campaigns for fairer climate action.



TASK 1 Highlight the immediate, long-term and campaigning responses.



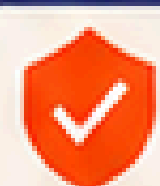
TASK 2 Explain two ways Christian Aid shows the role of the worldwide Church. [4 marks]

Christian Aid shows the worldwide Church by working with local partners to give emergency help after crisis. It also supports long-term development and campaigns against injustice, linking Christian service with global action.



EVALUATE Which approach is most likely to create lasting change? Justify your judgement.

Long-term development is most likely to create lasting change because it helps communities build secure livelihoods and services. However, emergency response is essential first when lives and basic needs are at risk. The strongest approach links both, then addresses unfair causes through campaigning.



ACCURACY CHECK Christian Aid works through partnerships. Do not imply that it controls every project directly.

KNOWLEDGE AND MISCONCEPTIONS



QUICK RECALL

- 1 Give one way a church may support a food bank.
volunteers, donations, a venue or leadership
- 2 What is a Street Pastor?
a trained Christian volunteer who supports safety and wellbeing
- 3 Define evangelism.
sharing the Christian gospel
- 4 Give one meaning of Church growth.
growth in numbers, commitment, holiness or influence
- 5 Define reconciliation.
rebuilding damaged relationships and seeking peace
- 6 Give one response to persecution.
prayer, solidarity, advocacy or practical support
- 7 Name the Christian organisation studied.
Christian Aid



TRUE OR FALSE?

- A. Mission only means evangelism. F
- B. Church growth only means larger attendance. F
- C. Reconciliation can include justice. T
- D. All food banks are run by churches. F
- E. The worldwide Church can work through local partners. T



CORRECT THE FALSE STATEMENTS

- A Mission includes service and justice as well as evangelism.
- B Church growth may mean deeper commitment or influence, not only attendance.
- D Churches support some food banks, but not all food banks are church-run.



CONNECT IT

Choose two terms and explain the link between them:

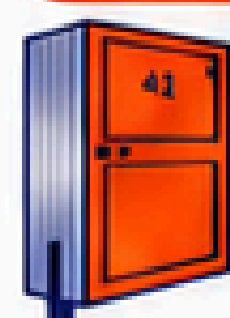
mission • service • evangelism • growth • reconciliation • persecution

Mission and service link because practical care is one way Christians live out what they believe God calls the Church to do.



CONFIDENCE CHECK

local Church	1	2	3	4	5
worldwide Church	1	2	3	4	5
exam questions	1	2	3	4	5



EXAM PRACTICE**AQA-STYLE EXAM PRACTICE**

1 Which term means sharing the Christian gospel with others? [1 mark]

- A mission ☐ **B** evangelism ☒ C reconciliation ☐ D persecution ☐

2 Give one way a church may help a food bank. [1 mark]

provide volunteers to sort donations

3 Explain two different ways churches help the local community. [4 marks]

Churches may support food banks by giving volunteers and donations, which helps provide emergency food. They may also run Street Pastor teams that listen and give practical care, improving safety and wellbeing.

4 Explain two ways the worldwide Church may respond to persecution. [6 marks]

Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

two
developed
ways +
accurate
source

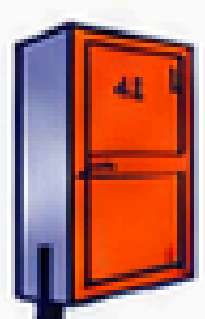
One response is prayer and solidarity, reminding persecuted Christians that they are not forgotten. Paul teaches that when one part suffers, all suffer (1 Corinthians 12:26), so Christians share responsibility.

Another response is advocacy and practical support: churches may contact decision-makers, defend religious freedom and help with safe shelter or legal needs. This protects dignity and may reduce further harm.

**SELF-CHECK**

Question 3:
two different ways + explanation

Question 4:
two developed ways +
source of wisdom and authority



12-MARK EVALUATION PLAN

1

“Helping people locally is more important for the Church than helping people worldwide.”

Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks]

- In your answer you should:
- refer to Christian teaching
 - give developed arguments
 - reach a justified conclusion

2

BUILD YOUR ARGUMENTS



FOR

Claim: local help should come first

Evidence or example: food banks and
Street Pastors; Matthew 25:35-40

Why it supports the statement: immediate
needs and trusted relationships allow
direct, accountable care

AGAINST

Claim: Christian responsibility crosses borders

Evidence or example: Christian Aid,
persecution support; 1 Corinthians 12:26

Why it challenges the statement: equal dignity
and shared faith mean distance does not
reduce moral duty

3

PLANNING FRAME

PARAGRAPH	CHRISTIAN TEACHING OR EXAMPLE	EXPLANATION	MINI-JUDGEMENT
For	Matthew 25; food banks	practical, immediate, relational	strong when local need is urgent
Against	1 Corinthians 12:26; Christian Aid	worldwide solidarity and structural change	stronger as a universal principle
Conclusion	both are connected	local and worldwide action reinforce each other	reject the absolute wording; priority depends on need and impact

CHECK YOUR PLAN:

☒ two developed sides

☒ accurate Christian teaching

☒ local and worldwide examples

☒ a justified conclusion

☒ SPaG checked

WRITE YOUR 12-MARK RESPONSE

“Helping people locally is more important for the Church than helping people worldwide.”
Evaluate this statement.

[12 marks + 3 SPaG]



In your answer you should:

- refer to Christian teaching
- give developed arguments
- reach a justified conclusion

WRITE HERE

Some Christians may agree that helping locally is more important because a church can see immediate needs and build trusted relationships. Food-bank volunteers can provide emergency food, while Street Pastors listen and offer practical care. Matthew 25:35-40 teaches, in summary, that serving a person in need is like serving Jesus. This gives strong religious support for practical local action. Local projects may also be accountable because volunteers understand the community.

However, the statement is too absolute. Christian responsibility is not limited by distance. Paul teaches that when one part suffers, all suffer (1 Corinthians 12:26). This supports prayer, solidarity, advocacy and practical help for Christians facing persecution. Reconciliation work can also bring dialogue, justice and peace across borders. Worldwide action may reach severe needs that one local church could never address alone.

Christian Aid is a useful example. It works with churches, local partners and communities in emergencies, long-term development and campaigning. Partnership means worldwide support can still use local knowledge rather than imposing outside solutions. It may also challenge structural causes of poverty, creating change beyond immediate relief.

Mission provides another reason to reject a narrow local focus. Jesus sends followers to make disciples and teach others (Matthew 28:19-20). Many Christians therefore see the Church as a worldwide community with duties to people in every nation. Yet overseas action should not become an excuse to ignore neighbours nearby.

Overall, helping locally is not always more important. The best priority depends on urgency, impact and who is able to respond. Local and worldwide action are connected: both express Christian love, protect dignity and put faith into practice. I therefore disagree with the statement's absolute wording.

FINAL CHECK



knowledge is accurate



both sides are developed



Christian teaching is used



examples are specific



conclusion is justified



SPaG is accurate



FINAL REVIEW

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH



COMPLETE THE MAP

LOCAL COMMUNITY

- food banks
- Street Pastors
- youth club or debt advice

GROWING THE CHURCH

- mission
- evangelism
- Church growth
- service can build relationships that open respectful faith conversations and participation

WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY

- reconciliation
- responses to persecution
- Christian Aid
- advocacy for religious freedom



ONE-SENTENCE SUMMARIES

The local Church...
responds to nearby needs
through practical service
and relationships.

Mission and evangelism...
link Christian action with
sharing faith; growth may
be numerical or spiritual.

The worldwide Church...
promotes reconciliation, supports
persecuted Christians and works
through Christian Aid.

EXIT QUESTIONS

- Which example would you use in a 4-mark answer? Why?
Food banks and Street Pastors, because they are two different, specific forms of local service.
- Which Christian teaching can you apply most confidently?
Matthew 25:35–40, because it links helping a person in need with serving Jesus.
- What is one misconception you will now avoid?
Avoid saying every food bank is church-run or that Church growth only means numbers.

FINAL CONFIDENCE

I can explain local action. 1 2 3 4 5

I can explain worldwide action. 1 2 3 4 5

I can evaluate the Church's role. 1 2 3 4 5

NEXT STEP

My revision priority is...
plan and write a timed 12-mark
evaluation using local and
worldwide evidence.