

A. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1 Where did Christianity arise?

- Christianity arose in the land of Judaea, modern Israel, which was then a part of the Roman Empire.

2 Why did Christianity appeal to the poor and the downtrodden?

- Christianity appealed to the poor and the downtrodden in the Roman society, because it involved the worship of only one God and promised salvation to all.

3 Name the two parts of the bible. Throw light on their contents.

- The Bible includes the Old Testament, which records the origin of the Jews, and the New Testament, which records the deeds and the teachings Jesus.

4 How is Jesus' birth related to the system of writing dates?

- Our system of writing dates of events is centered around the birth of Christ.

The dates before Jesus birth are marked BC, which stands for before Christ.

The year of his birth has been universally accepted as AD1, where AD stands for anno domini (in the year of the Lord).

5 What is meant by crucifixion?

- Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion, that is, by being nailed to the cross by the wrists and ankles.

6 How did Christianity gain political support?

- Christianity gained political support when the Roman Emperor Constantine I converted to Christianity around AD313.

7 Outline organizational structure of the Christian church.

- The church was headed by a Bishop, below whom there were priest followed by the lower clergy.

In due course, the Bishop of Rome emerged as most powerful official of Christian church. He came to be called the pope (father).

8 What is a monastery?

- The institutions in which monks lived were called monasteries.

9 How did corruption creep into the monasteries of Western Europe?

- Corruption became widespread in monasteries as pope and Bishop acquired property.

10 what is the significance of Good Friday and Easter?

- Jesus was crucified on Friday. This event is remembered as Good Friday.

According to Christian tradition, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his death. His resurrection, or coming back to life, is celebrated as Easter every year.

B. Answer the following questions.

1 In the period of preceding the rise of Christianity, Why were the Jews and the poor of Judaea awaiting the appearance of a messiah?

- In the period of preceding the rise of Christianity, the Jews and the poor of Judaea were very unhappy under Roman rule. They particularly disliked roman customs of treating rulers as gods, and regarded it as an insult to the Jewish religion.

Under Roman rule, the gap between the rich and the poor widened. The poor were overburdened with taxes and oppressed by wicked Roman officials. Hence, they waited for the messiah.

2 Write about the following aspects of Christianity.

(a) The personal qualities of its founder.

- Jesus was learned, honest, frank and fearless person.

Jesus was disturbed by the economic and social inequalities of his time and the decline in moral values.

(b) The main teachings.

- Jesus preached of God's mercy and love. He advised his followers to be humble and to be kind, forgiving, and merciful and show love towards others.

He advised his followers to hate sin and not the sinner and to repay evil with good.

3. With reference to the execution of Jesus, answer the following questions.

(a) Who were Jesus' enemies? Why and how did they affect his execution?

- Jesus popularity among the common people alarmed the upper classes and some of the Jews, who saw in him a dangerous rebel. They complained to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judaea, That Jesus had defied the Roman emperor by claiming to be the king of the Jews. According to Roman law, this was a crime deserving punishment by death. Jesus was arrested and he was sentenced to death by crucifixion.

(b) Describe the events from Jesus arrest to his ascension to heaven.

- Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion. He was made to wear a crown of thorns and carry the heavy cross to Mount Calvary, or Golgotha. He was the nailed to the cross. At the top of the cross, his crime of claiming to be the king of the Jew was inscribed in the local languages so that everybody could read.

After about three hours of intense agony, Jesus died. In keeping with Jewish tradition, his body was brought down before sunset and later buried.

According to Christian tradition, he arose from the dead on the third day after his death. His resurrection or coming back to life is celebrated as Easter every year. Jesus is said to have ascended to heaven after this.

4 With reference to developments after Jesus birth, answer the following questions.

(a) What role did Paul play in the rise of Christianity?

- After the death of Jesus, his teaching was spread by his followers Paul. Jesus' teachings became the basis of that new religion. Paul popularize the idea of Jesus as 'Christ', who had been specially sent by god to atone for the sense of humanity.

(b) Why did Christianity win a large following in the Roman society?

- Christianity appealed to the people, especially the poor and downtrodden in the roman society, because it involved the worship of only one God and promised salvation to all. And it undertook services like health care, burial and the distribution of alms to the weak and the poor. This was unlike any other religious institution of those times.

5 With reference to Christian monasteries, answer the following questions.

(a) Describe the life of a monk in early Christian monastery.

- Life in ministry included prayer, manual work and religious study.

The monks set an example by doing manual work, and this promoted the idea of dignity of labour. The monks were trained to look after the weak, the sick and the poor. The monks also received education and preserved ancient knowledge by copying ancient manuscripts.

(b) How did the monasteries culturally unite Western Europe?

- For a long time after the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the monks were the only learned people in Western Europe. The Christian monasteries became centers of learning and for spreading education. Subjects such as Logic, Grammar, Arithmetic and Religion were taught in the Latin language. This language served as a bond among the educated people of Western Europe. Christianity has played an important role in culturally uniting Western Europe.

6 With respect to the Roman Empire in AD395, explain.

(a) How the Empire was weakened; and

- After Constantine's death, political turmoil and invasions by barbarian tribes from Northern and Eastern Europe weakened the Roman Empire.

(b) What the consequences were of this weakening.

- By the end of the fifth century, the waves of the barbarian invasion had broken up the Western Roman Empire. It broke into a number of small, mutually warring kingdoms. There was a total breakdown of law and order. At this time, the Christian church emerged as the only organised institution that protected and preserved moral values and promoted learning.