

NAME: _____ DATE: _____
LC RELIGION: Jesus of Nazareth

Leaving Certificate

Religion

Jesus of Nazareth

Please see *Teachers' Notes* for explanations, additional activities, and tips and suggestions.

Levels	Students' English language skills should be developed to Level B1 during funded Language Support. Mainstream subject learning will require the development of skills at Level B2 if students are to cope with public examinations.	
Language focus	Key vocabulary, word identification, sentence structure, extracting information from text, writing text, grammar.	
Learning focus	Using Religion textbooks and accessing curriculum content and learning activities.	
Acknowledgement	The <i>English Language Support Programme</i> gratefully acknowledges the permission of Gill and Macmillan to reproduce excerpts from <i>Faith in Action</i> by Niall Boyle.	
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Using this unit

Language support and mainstream subject class

The sections **Activating students' knowledge**, **Focus on vocabulary**, and **Focus on grammar** have been designed, in particular, for Language Support classes.

Focus on reading and **Focus on writing** are suitable for use in either Language Support or subject classes.

Answer Key

Answers are provided at the end of the unit for all activities except those based on free writing.

Textbooks

This unit focuses on the section on the *life of Jesus of Nazareth*. Students will need to use their textbooks if they are to gain the most benefit from the activities.

Learning Record

The Learning Record is intended to help students monitor their progress. This can be downloaded or printed from the website in the section *Advising Students and Record of Learning for the Leaving Certificate*. A copy of the Learning Record should be distributed to each student for each unit studied.

Students should:

1. Write the subject and topic on the record.
2. Tick off/date the different statements as they complete activities.
3. Keep the record in their files along with the work produced for this unit.
4. Use this material to support mainstream subject learning.

Symbols

Symbols are used throughout the unit to encourage students to develop their own learning and support materials.



prompts students to file the sheet when they have completed the activity. This is used for activities which can be used as a reference in the future e.g. for subject classroom, revision, homework etc.



prompts students to add vocabulary, definitions, or examples of vocabulary in use to their own personal glossary for the topic. A personal glossary makes study and revision more efficient.

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Keywords

The list of keywords for this unit is as follows:

Nouns

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Vocabulary file (1) for the topic
Jesus of Nazareth

Word	Meaning	Page(s) in my textbook	Note
gospels			
kingdom			
parable			
miracle			
evidence			
sceptic			
condemnation			
interrogation			



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Vocabulary file (2) for the topic
Jesus of Nazareth

Word	Meaning	Page(s) in my textbook	Note
trial			
resurrection			
shroud			
theologian			
disciple			
apparition			
salvation			
prophet			
trinity			



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Introduction

Activating students' existing knowledge

Use a spidergram to activate students' ideas and knowledge on the key points in this chapter. See **Teachers' Notes** for suggestions.

Possible key terms for the spidergram:

Christianity

Jesus of Nazareth

- Invite students to provide key words in their own languages.
- Encourage dictionary use.
- Encourage students to organise their vocabulary into relevant categories (e.g. meaning, nouns, keywords, verbs etc.).



Students should record vocabulary and terms from the spidergram in their personal dictionaries.

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Level: B1
Individual / pair

Focus on vocabulary

1. Matching

Match each expression in Column A with a definition in Column B. Draw a line between the matching expressions.

Column A	Column B
visionary	a person who is wasteful, uncontrolled and extravagant.
miracle	a cloth used to cover the body of a dead person
crucifixion	an event which should be impossible and cannot be explained by science
parables	when someone is fastened to a cross and left to die
prodigal	when you see someone or something that no one else can see, as part of a religious experience
shroud	a short story, especially in the Bible, that shows how you should behave

2. Using key words

Now check your understanding of the key words and phrases by inserting them into the gaps in the sentences from your textbooks.



- Jesus was executed by _____.
- Albert Schweitzer thought that Jesus was nothing more than a deluded _____.
- Much of Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God was presented in the form of _____.
- The _____, which is roughly 14 ft long and 3.5 ft wide, bears the faint image of a man who was crucified and then laid out for burial.
- The parable of the _____ son makes the point that God sees each and every human being as an equal member of his kingdom.
- Some writers claim that advances in scientific knowledge have demonstrated that the whole idea of _____ is nonsense.

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3. Study the key words in the box below. Use your textbook and /or your dictionary to find out what they mean.

prophet	resurrection	pilgrims	Sabbath
saviour	gospels	tomb	trial

4. Now check your understanding of the key words by putting them into the gaps in the sentences from your textbooks below:

- The belief in the _____ – that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead on Easter Sunday morning is at the very heart of Christianity.
- A _____ is someone sent by God to tell people what to do, or to say what will happen in the future.
- The four _____ are not biographies in the modern sense of the word.
- Perhaps as many as 300,000 Jewish _____ could have converged on Jerusalem for seven days of prayer.
- Jesus' _____ before Pontius Pilate followed the standard Roman judicial procedures of that time.
- Jesus was crucified and died on a Friday, for Jews, this was the day of preparation for the _____.
- The _____ was hewn out of solid rock – there was an outer chamber in which the body was prepared for burial, and an inner chamber in which the body was placed in a niche for storage.
- Christians regard the founder of their faith – Jesus of Nazareth – as the _____ of the world and they worship him.

Level: B1
 Individual / pair

Focus on grammar

5. Verbs

Use verbs from the box below to complete this story about something that happened in the past.

Simple past

A man _____ (have) two sons. The younger son _____ (say) to this father, "Father let me have the share of the estate that would come to me". So the father _____ (divide) the property between them. A few days later the younger son _____ (get) together everything he had and _____ (leave) for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

When he had _____ (spend) it all, the country was experiencing a severe famine, and now he _____ (become) poor, so he _____ (hire) himself out to one of the local inhabitants who _____ (put) him to work on the farm feeding the pigs. He would willingly have filled his stomach with the husks the pigs were eating, but no-one _____ (offer) him anything. Then he _____ (come) to his senses and said, 'how many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here I am dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say, 'Father I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants' So he left the place and _____ (go) back to his father. *(this parable/story is continued in your textbook)*

6. Regular and irregular verbs

Check the verbs in the first column and put the verb in the Past Tense column. If you are not sure, check your dictionary or grammar book. Tick to show whether the verb is regular or irregular. When you have finished, highlight the **irregular** verbs. You should add these verbs to your personal dictionary. You may also put your own note or translation in the right hand column.

Verb	Past tense	Regular (✓)	Irregular (✓)	Note
have				
say				
divide				
get				
leave				
spend				
begin				
hire				
put				
offer				
come				
go				

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Level: B1 / B2
Individual / pair

Focus on reading

7. Read the questions first. You may know some of the answers without reading the text. Next read the text to find or check your answers to the questions.

- a) What is the origin of Christianity?
- b) How many followers of Christianity are there today?
- c) Does everybody believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the son of God?
- d) Do most people believe that a person called Jesus of Nazareth existed?

Christianity has its origin in the story of a Jewish peasant named Jesus of Nazareth. He lived in the Roman province of Palestine, some time between 6BCE and 33CE.

The name Jesus was a common one among males 2,000 years ago. It is a Latin version of the Greek name *Jesous*, which was itself a rendering of the Hebrew name *Yehosua (Joshua)*, which means *God saves* or *God is salvation*. Though dismissed as an insignificant nobody by the rich and powerful of his era, today Jesus is the central figure in the belief and worship of his estimated 2 billion followers worldwide.

Since the nineteenth century a number of writers have sought to challenge the Christian belief that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God.

Although they may disagree regarding his identify, there is broad agreement among historians that a person named Jesus of Nazareth did exist. This is because there are two separate streams of historical evidence that independently confirm his existence. These written sources are both Christian and non-Christian.

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8. Read the questions first. Then read the text below to find answers to the questions. Do not worry about understanding every word in the text. Just focus on finding the answers.

(Gospels: the four books in the bible that tell the life of Jesus Christ)

- a) What is a biography?
- b) What is the focus of the gospels and other ancient biographies?
- c) What are the authors (writers) of the gospels called?
- d) Why did they write the gospels?
- e) According to the text, do any non-Christians believe in the existence of Jesus?

The Gospels

The four Gospels are not biographies in the modern sense of the word.

For example:

- they do not offer us a physical description of Jesus
- they do not tell us much about his childhood.

In these matters they are quite similar in form to other ancient biographies written in the Roman world. If one reads any of the lives of the emperors, philosophers or heroes composed at that time, one will notice that they are all highly selective in their content and concentrate on the major events in their chosen subjects' lives. The primary focus of such books is to help the reader to understand the meaning of these remarkable peoples' lives.

In the case of the four Gospels, the authors (called evangelists) concentrate primarily on the most significant moments in the life of Jesus of Nazareth; his parables, miracles, suffering, death and resurrection. It must be admitted however, that the evangelists did not set out to offer readers objective reports on the life of Jesus, but rather to persuade people to have faith in him. The evangelists clearly assume that Jesus is alive, is risen from the dead, and that his resurrection vindicates him as the son of God. Before one is tempted to simply reject the Gospels as nothing more than an example of religious propaganda, one should note that non-Christian writers such as Josephus and Tacitus corroborate the basic details of the story set out in the Gospels.

Level: B1 / B2
Individual / pair

Focus on writing

9. Writing sentences

Here is a question you might be asked in an exam.

Describe what happened when Jesus was brought for trial before Pontius Pilate and explain why that trial took place.

Below are some sentences you might use in your answer. We have jumbled the words and phrases. Unjumble them to create correct sentences. We have done the first one for you.

a) the king of the Jews/delegation/told Pilate/had claimed to be/The Sanhedrin's/that Jesus

The Sanhedrin's delegation told Pilate that Jesus had claimed to be the king of the Jews.

b) to make/a very serious/ this was/ charge/

c) death/the punishment/ a crime/ for such/ was always

d) Jesus/ if he were /Pilate/ directly/ /a king/ asked/

e) a king'/Jesus/ 'Yes./ replied,/ I am/

f) then clarified/ /by saying/ 'My kingdom/ his statement/ of this world'/ Jesus/ is not

g) Pilate/ the death penalty/decided/ had done nothing/ that Jesus/ to merit

h) to lodge/ the Sanhedrin delegation/ an official complaint/ to the emperor/
threatened/ about Pilate

i) to /decided/Pilate/ their demand/ to give in

j) / to death /he declared/ guilty of treason/ Jesus /and condemned him

Answer key

1.

Column A	Column B
visionary	when you see someone or something that no one else can see as part of a religious experience
miracle	an event which should be impossible and cannot be explained by science
crucifixion	when someone is fastened to a cross and left to die
parables	a short story, especially in the bible, that shows how you should behave
prodigal	a person who is wasteful, uncontrolled and extravagant
shroud	a cloth used to cover the body of a dead person

2.

- Jesus was executed by crucifixion
- Albert Schweitzer thought that Jesus was nothing more than a deluded visionary.
- Much of Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God was presented in the form of parables.
- The shroud, which is roughly 14 ft long and 3.5 ft wide, bears the faint image of a man who was crucified and then laid out for burial.
- The parable of the prodigal son makes the point that God sees each and every human being as an equal member of his kingdom.
- Some writers claim that advances in scientific knowledge have demonstrated that the whole idea of miracles is nonsense.

4.

- The belief in the resurrection – that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead on Easter Sunday morning is at the very heart of Christianity.
- A prophet is someone sent by God to tell people what to do, or to say what will happen in the future.
- The four gospels are not biographies in the modern sense of the word.
- Perhaps as many as 300,000 Jewish pilgrims could have converged on Jerusalem for seven days of prayer.
- Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate followed the standard Roman judicial procedures of that time.
- Jesus was crucified and died on a Friday, for Jews, this was the day of preparation for the Sabbath.
- The tomb was hewn out of solid rock – there was an outer chamber in which the body was prepared for burial, and an inner chamber in which the body was placed in a niche for storage.
- Christians regard the founder of their faith – Jesus of Nazareth – as the saviour of the world and they worship him.

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5.
Simple past

A man **had** two sons. The younger son **said** to his father, "Father let me have the share of the estate that would come to me". So the father **divided** the property between them. A few days later the younger son **got** together everything he had and **left** for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

When he had **spent** it all, the country was experiencing a severe famine, and now he **became** poor, so he **hired** himself out to one of the local inhabitants who **put** him to work on the farm feeding the pigs. He would willingly have filled his stomach with the husks the pigs were eating, but no-one **offered** him anything. Then he **came** to his senses and said, 'how many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here I am dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say, 'Father I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants' So he left the place and **went** back to his father. *(this parable/story is continued in your textbook)*

6. Regular and irregular verbs

Verb	Past tense	Regular (√)	Irregular (√)	Note
have	had		√	
say	said		√	
divide	divided	√		
get	got		√	
leave	left		√	
spend	spent		√	
become	became		√	
hire	hired	√		
put	put		√	
offer	offered	√		
come	came		√	
go	went		√	

7.

- a) The story of Jesus of Nazareth is the origin of Christianity.
- b) There are approximately 2 billion followers worldwide.
- c) No
- d) Yes

8.

- a) The story of a person's life written by another person.
- b) The focus is on helping the reader to understand the meaning of the person's life.
- c) They were called evangelists.
- d) They wrote the gospels to persuade people to have faith in Jesus.
- e) Yes, for example, non-Christian writers such as Josephus and Tacitus.

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9.

- b) This was a very serious charge to make.
- c) The punishment for such a crime was always death.
- d) Pilate asked Jesus directly if he were a king.
- e) Jesus replied, 'Yes. I am a king'.
- f) Jesus then clarified his statement by saying. 'My kingdom is not of this world'.
- g) Pilate decided that Jesus had done nothing to merit the death penalty.
- h) The Sanhedrin delegation threatened to lodge an official complaint about Pilate, to the emperor.
- i) Pilate decided to give in to their demand.
- j) He declared Jesus guilty of treason and condemned him to death.