

Is God personal or impersonal? Can we have a personal relationship with him?
 SPINOZA = NO God is impersonal

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-

BUBER = YES God is personal

-

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Strengths / impact of Buber?

Weaknesses of Buber?

Does God suffer?
YES:

-

Criticism:

-

Criticism:

-

Criticism:

Does God suffer?
NO:
 Philo:

Anselm:

Aquinas:

Define...

Immutable:

Impassable:

Nature of God

God's omnipotence
 Omnipotence means:

However there are logical contradictions that challenge these views, such as:

- 1.
- 2.

Anselm's response:

Aquinas' response:

William of Ockham's response:

Criticism of Ockham:

Counter-criticism:

Buber and Augustine

What is order from chaos?

Who believed this?

What is creation ex nihilo?

What does Augustine say about ex nihilo?

What is the significance of ex nihilo?

What are the criticisms of ex nihilo?
 Theoretical problem:

Biblical problem:

Empirical problem:

Creation at an instant problem:

Evil problem:

Empire problem:

What is modified ex nihilo?

What is emanation?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

What are the implications of these teachings about God?

What is construction?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

What is artistic impression?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

What is goodness of creation?

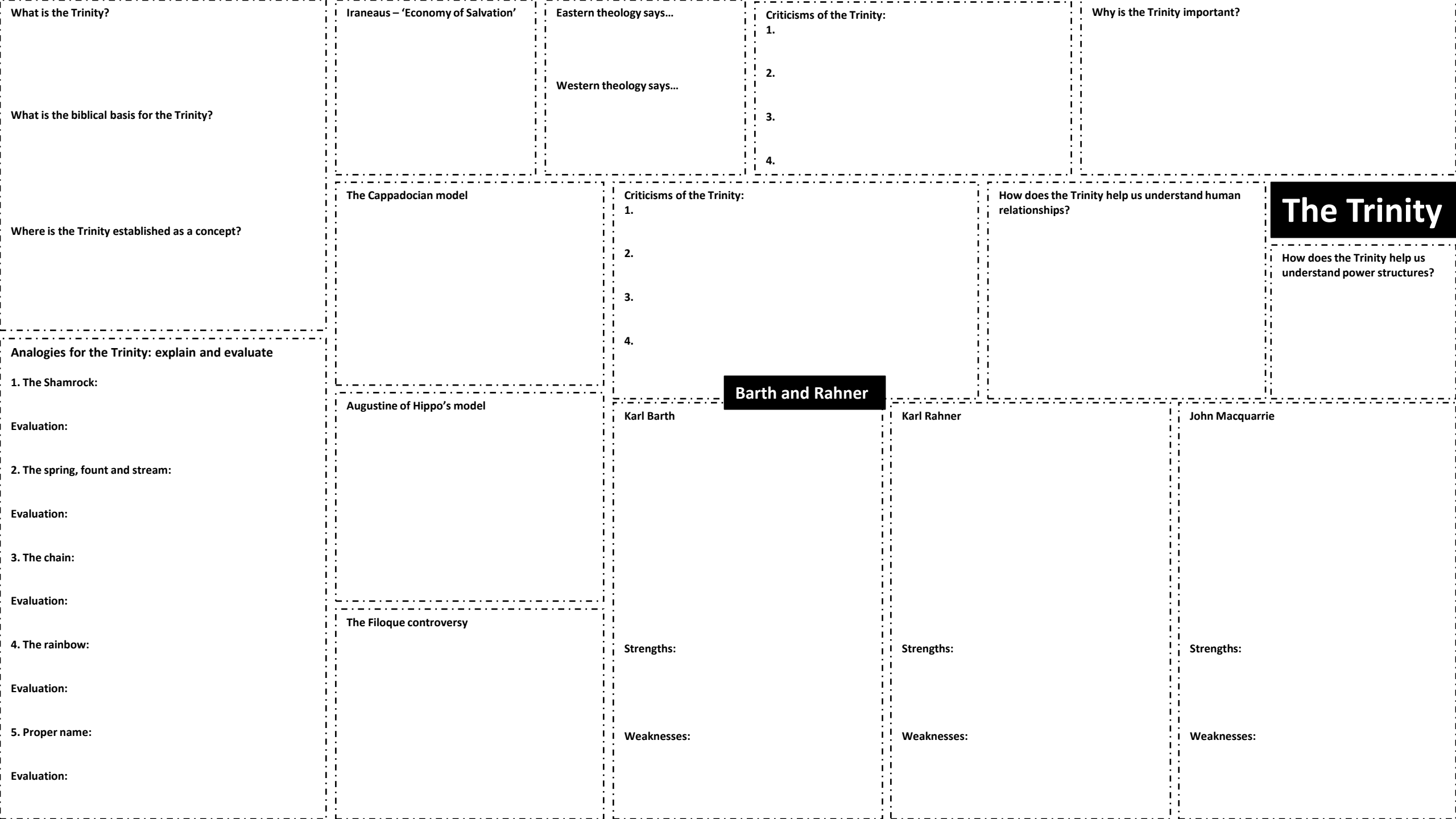
Strengths:

Weaknesses:

What is stewardship?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:



The Church

What is the impact of these views on the life of Christian communities and individuals?

Cyprian of Carthage and M Luther

UNITY - Cyprian
What is unity of the Church?

How were bishops the key to unity?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is the Protestant view of unity (Rowan Williams)?

HOLINESS – Augustine
What did the Donatists believe?

How did Augustine respond?

How is this highlighted by the parable of the wheat and the weeds?

What is the Protestant view of holiness (Williams)?

Criticisms:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

CATHOLICITY – Aquinas and Luther
What is Catholicity?

What happened when the Reformation occurred?

What did Luther believe Catholicity was?

What is 'doctrinal fidelity'?

Luther: "Where the word is, there is faith; and where faith is, there is the true Church"

APOSTOLICITY
What does apostolic mean?

How is the Church apostolic?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Rowan Williams – how can Protestants still believe in a united, Catholic, holy, apostolic church?

Key moral principles

Love is a key attribute in Christianity. God's love for humanity is revealed in scripture and in nature. God is love, by his very nature.

1 John 4:9-10: ⁹ *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.* ¹⁰ *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

1 John 4:8 and 16 state that "God is love; and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

How does the Old Testament present the love of God?

Why is this problematic?

How does the New Testament present the love of God?

Why is this problematic?

The love of God as revealed in creation

God's love is seen through His creation; his creation is his work of love for humanity. Psalm 119:64 The earth is filled with your love, Lord.

In Genesis, God created the universe and thought it was good. Genesis 1: God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

The vastness of creation gives testimony to God as Love.

What is young earth creationism?

Evaluation:

What is old earth creationism?

Evaluation:

What is theistic evolution?

Evaluation:

The love of God as revealed in the Incarnation

How does the Incarnation reveal the love of God?

1 John 4: 9: *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.* **10** *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

The love of God as revealed in the Trinity

God is Love. Not just that God loves, but that *He is Love*.

This is revealed in the Trinitarian nature of God.

John 14:31:

Matthew 3:17:

Peter Kreeft:

Steps to Kreeft's argument:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Criticism of Kreeft:

Points for evaluation

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Counter-criticism:

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Compilation of the Bible:</p> <p>Genres of the Bible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. | <p>The continuity between Old and New Testaments</p> <p>What is the Christian attitude to the old Testament?</p> <p>What did Augustine argue?</p> | <p>How is the Bible the basis of ethical teaching?</p> <p>How should Christians understand the 10 commandments?</p> <p>What are they key ethical teachings of the Bible?</p> | <p>What is Christian mysticism?</p> <p>What are some biblical examples of mysticism?</p> | <p>What is the 'word of God'?</p> <p>How can this be understood?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. |
| <p>The Gospels</p> <p>What are the synoptic gospels?</p> <p>How and why is John different?</p> <p>What is the purpose and style of...</p> <p>Matthew?</p> <p>Mark?</p> <p>Luke?</p> | <p>What is Biblical inerrancy?</p> <p>Do all Christians believe in biblical inerrancy?</p> <p>What quote does the debate centre on?</p> <p>Criticisms of biblical inerrancy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. | <p>Evaluation: should the Bible be used for making moral decisions?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. <p>What did Barth deny?</p> | <p>Biblical references to natural theology:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. <p>Natural theology is useful insofar as God has created the world and the world still points to Him as Creator. However, given our fallen intellect, many Christians believe we cannot properly interpret that without God's special revelation.</p> | <p>Four ways the Bible can be interpreted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. |
| <p>John?</p> | <p>What is revealed theology?</p> | <p>What is natural theology?</p> | <p>What did Aquinas say about the relationship of revealed and natural theology?</p> | <p>The Bible</p> |

Nature and role of Jesus

Christology
Jesus as messiah:

Jesus as the Son of God:

Jesus as the Son of Man:

Jesus as God:

Arius and Athanasius

What is the Chalcedonian definition?

What did the Chalcedonian definition attempt to resolve?

What did Luther teach about the person of Christ?

What is justification by faith?

Catholic view:

Protestant view:

Criticisms:

Calvin – Prophet, King and Priest
Three offices to explain the work of Christ:

1.

2.

3.

What is the Arian heresy?

What did the Docetists believe?

What did Arius believe?

Points of evaluation for Jesus and the early church:

What did Luther believe about sin and sacrifice?

What did Calvin teach about the doctrine of sin?

What did Calvin believe about the nature of God?

What did Athanasius believe?

Who won the debate?

How did the Nicene Creed affirm this view of Jesus?

What was the Reformation?

What were the 95 theses?

What did Luther believe about salvation?

Luther and Calvin

What did Luther teach about the revelation of God?

What did Calvin teach about the person of Christ?

Strengths of Reformers' view of Jesus:

Weaknesses of Reformers' view of Jesus:

Nature and role of Jesus – modern views

DEFINE...

Impassibility:

Passibility:

Immutable:

Aporia:

Divine apatheia:

Pathos:

Transcendent:

Background and context of Moltman:

Significance of Elie Wiesel's story:

If God is a loving and compassionate God, he must not only be aware of human suffering but he must also himself be an "active" victim of such suffering.

What is Baucham's Divine Passibility?

Strengths of Moltman:

What is the problem?

What are the three main reasons for a paradigm shift away from an impassable God to a suffering God?

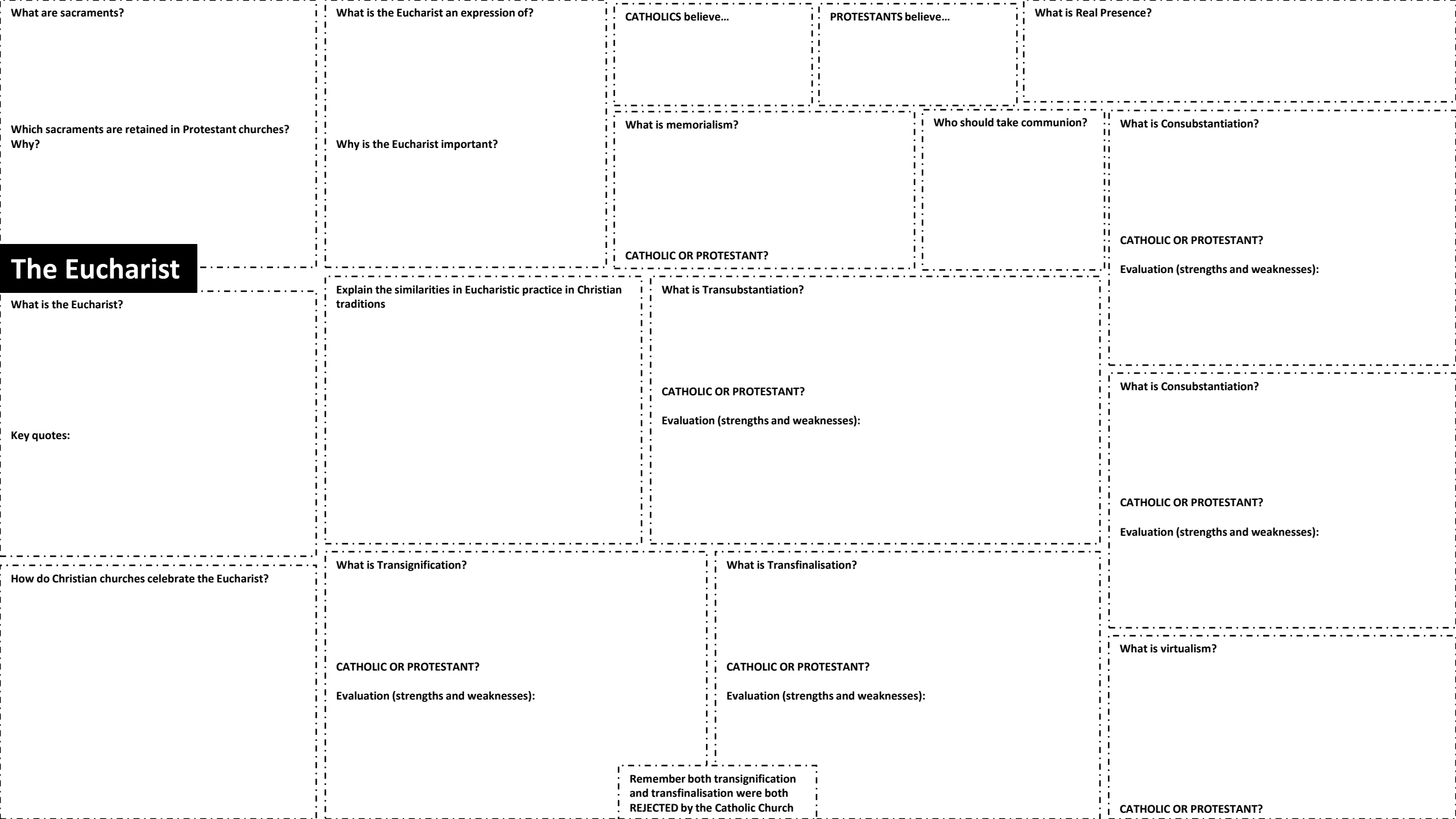
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The implications of this are that scholars started to argue that God is *passable* – he can and does undergo emotional change and can suffer

"My God, my God, Why have you forsaken me?"
Significance of this quote:

What does it mean for Christ to suffer and die?

Weaknesses of Moltman:



| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Early Christian art:</p> <p>What was the meaning and interpretation of early Christian art?</p> | <p><u>The nativity in Christian art</u> Early Christianity:</p> <p>Byzantine images:</p> <p>Western depictions:</p> <p>Renaissance:</p> | <p>Song in scripture</p> <p>Music in the early church:</p> | <p>Denominational differences Methodists –</p> <p>Gospel –</p> <p>Roman Catholic -</p> <p>The significance of music for Christian communities:</p> | <p>Types of prayer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private prayer 2. Public prayer 3. Silent prayer 4. The Divine Office 5. Ejaculatory prayer 6. Grace 7. The Lord's prayer |
| <p>What is the role of art in worship?</p> | <p><u>The Crucifixion in Christian art</u> Why was the crucifixion not a subject of early Christian art?</p> | <p>Christian hymnody:</p> <p>What were the two attitudes to hymns that came about as a result of the Reformation?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. | <p>The significance of music for Christian communities:</p> | <p>The significance and purpose of prayer:</p> |
| <p>Criticisms of the role of art in worship:</p> | <p>What was the influence of 'the passion'?</p> <p>Explain the changes that took place during the 6th and 12th centuries?</p> | <p>Contemporary Christian music:</p> | <p>What is prayer?</p> | <p>How these creative expressions</p> |
| <p>Strengths and impact of Christian art:</p> | <p>What is the importance of crucifixion art?</p> | <p>Why should Christians pray?</p> | <p>Why should Christians pray?</p> | <p>How these creative expressions</p> |

Creative expressions

Science

What was the Copernican revolution?

How did Darwinism challenge the Bible?

Can religion and science co-exist?

A number of historians have suggested that modern society arise in a Christian culture because the core beliefs provided the presuppositions needed to get science started...

Denis Alexander argues...

Alister McGrath argues...

How did Galileo challenge the Catholic Church?

Why were Galileo's views met with resistance?

What were the Christian responses to Darwinism?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Four presuppositions needed for science:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Iain Provan argues...

Ross Hastings argues...

Christian responses to Galileo?
John Calvin's theology preserved the credibility of the Bible:

- 1.
- 2.

Strengths and weaknesses of the evolution debate:

How these presuppositions follow from core Christian beliefs:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Richard Dawkins vs Francis Collins debate

| Dawkins | Collins |
|---------|---------|
| | |

William Lane Craig's response to Dawkins:

Declining numbers of Christians:

Declining numbers of Christians:

Christopher HITCHENS – *God is not great*
Argues that religion has caused conflict in a number of cities:

Religion has negatively affected the health of the population:

Hard-line atheism – DAWKINS – *The God Delusion*
Key arguments:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

Hitchens and Dawkins

The role of the Church in formal worship and modern life:

Criticisms of Hitchens

What is “moral terrorism”?

Evaluation – have modern atheists been successful in undermining religion?

| YES | NO |
|-----|----|
| | |

Criticisms of Dawkins
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

What is religion?

What is spirituality?

Impact and influence of new religious movements:

Anthology – McGrath – *Deluded about God?*

| Dawkins’ argument | McGrath’s response |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| | |

Characteristics of new religious movements:

Examples of new religious movements:

Secularisation

Key question:
Do liberation, feminist and black theology stray from biblical interpretation? Are scholars trying to fit Christianity to their ideology, or are these movements necessary because the church has strayed from a correct understanding of God's will?

Gutierrez, McFague and Cone

What is liberation theology?

What quote supports liberation theology?

What is the Trinity a model for?

Why did Pope John Paul II oppose liberation theology?

Who is Gustavo Gutierrez?

What did he teach?

Who are 'the cactus people'?

What is the Gospel all about, according to Gutierrez?

How does Liberation theology centre on Jesus?

What are the three dimensions of liberation, according to Gutierrez?
1.

2.

3.

Criticisms of liberation theology:
-
-
-
-
-

Impact of liberation theology:

Strengths of liberation theology:
-
-
-
-

What is feminist theology?

What are the major issues?

Key teachings of evangelical feminists:
1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Counter-arguments to feminist theology:

Who is Sally McFague?

What did she teach?

What is the trick to a successful metaphor?

What are McFague's new metaphors?
1.

2.

Strengths and weaknesses of McFague:

Strengths of feminist theology:

Criticisms of feminist theology:

Impact of feminist theology

Has feminist theology successfully challenged traditional understandings of God?

| YES | NO |
|-----|----|
| | |

What is black theology?

What does black theology seek?

Who is James Cone?

Key teachings:
1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Strengths and weaknesses of black theology:

Liberation, Feminist and Black Theology

What is Evangelicalism?

What do Evangelicals believe?

What is Pentecostalism?

Where did it begin?

What are the Biblical origins of Pentecostalism?

What is Charismatic Christianity?

What is it characterised by:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are the similarities and differences between Pentecostals and Charismatics?

| Similarities | Differences |
|--------------|-------------|
| | |

Four distinct features of Evangelicalism:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Key beliefs of Pentecostalism:

What's the relationship between Pentecostalism and Charismatic Christianity?

Who are the Jesus Army? What do they teach?

What is a diaspora?

What is the impact of migration and Christian diaspora on the Evangelical movement?

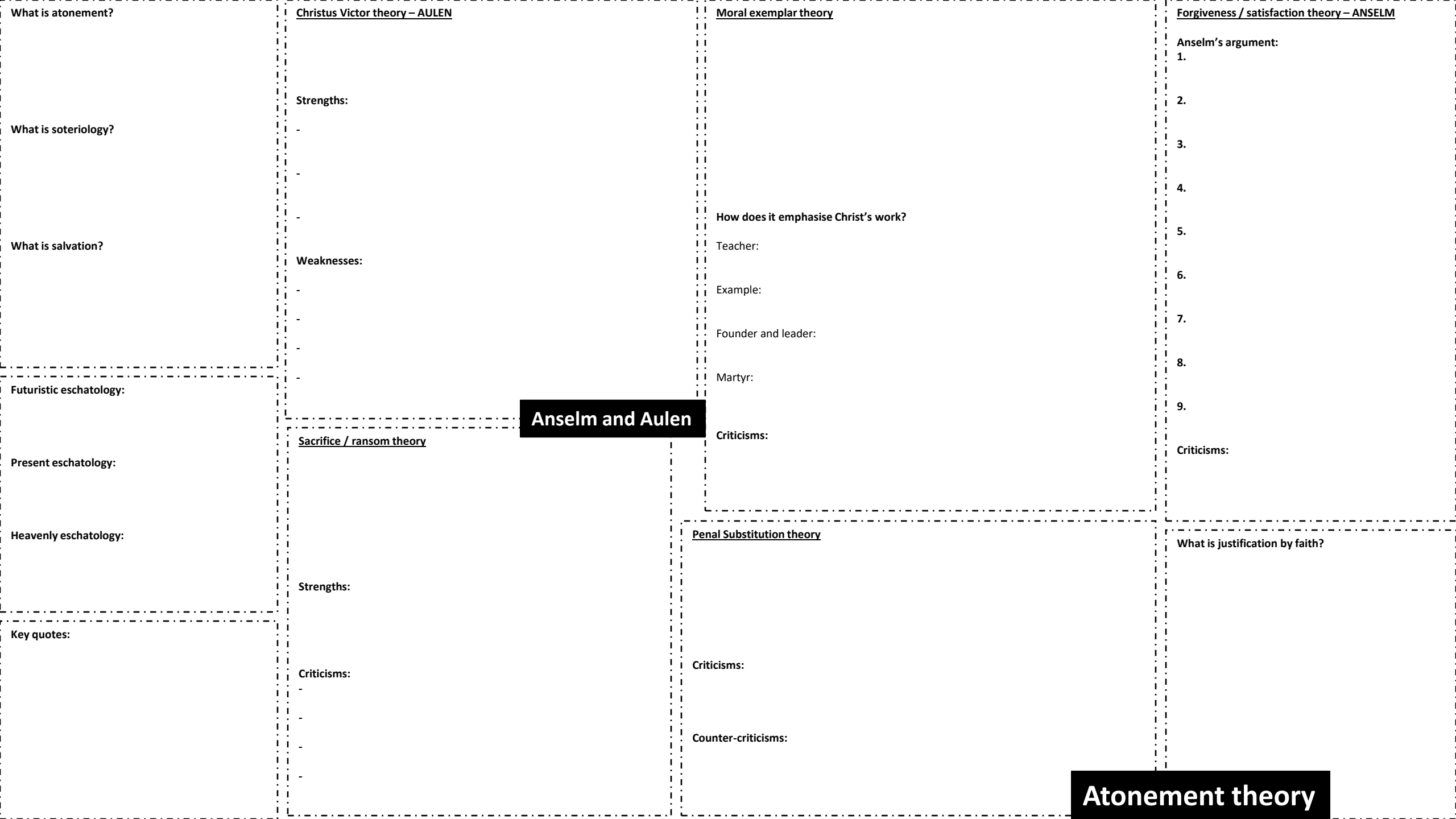
What is the history of Evangelicalism?

Impact of Pentecostalism:

Impact of Charismatic Christianity:

What is the importance of all these movements for Christians today?

Modern Evangelical beliefs:



**Hick – “The Metaphor of God”
Barth – “Church Dogmatics”**

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Hick – key argument:</p> | <p>How does Hick criticise original sin?</p> | <p>Strengths of Hick:</p> | <p>What did Barth emphasise?</p> | |
| <p>Why is it necessary we view Jesus as the Son of God as a metaphor?</p> | | | <p>What is Barth’s substitutory theory of atonement:</p> | <p>What is the context of the Reformed tradition for Barth’s work?</p> |
| <p>How was Jesus a moral exemplar?</p> | <p>What is the role of the cross, for Hick?</p> | <p>Weaknesses of Hick:</p> | <p>How was Jesus’ death a substitute for sinful humanity?</p> | <p>What does Barth believe about judgement and forgiveness?</p> |
| <p>How / why should these events be viewed metaphorically:</p> | | | <p>How did Jesus take God’s judgement on himself?</p> | |
| <p>1. Resurrection:</p> | <p>Context of the 20th century for Hick’s work:</p> | | | <p>Strengths of Barth:</p> |
| <p>2. Divinity / incarnation:</p> | | <p>Impact and importance of Hick:</p> | <p>What does Barth mean by ‘the judge judged in our place’?</p> | |
| <p>3. Virgin birth:</p> | | | | <p>Weaknesses of Barth:</p> |
| <p>What are the implications of Hick’s teachings for doctrines of incarnation and the Trinity:</p> | <p>Impact of Hick for inter-faith dialogue:</p> | | <p>Biblical background to Barth:</p> | |
| | | <p>What is a ‘global theology’? Is this possible?</p> | | |

Comparison – Hick vs. Barth

Pluralism and Diversity

Rahner and Hick

What is multiculturalism?

What is religious pluralism?

What is perennial philosophy?

What is universalism?

Pluralism – HICK
What is pluralism?

Why does Hick claim that a Copernican revolution in theology is necessary?

Hick says we must distinguish between:

-
-

He uses Kant's distinction between:

What is a 'global theology'?

How does Hick explain the radical differences in beliefs among religions?

What are the strengths and impact of Hick?

-
-
-

What are the criticisms of Pluralism:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

What is Christianity's relationship with Judaism?

What is Christianity's relationship with Islam?

Particularism
What is particularism?

Two types of particularists:

- 1.
- 2.

Criticisms of particularism:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Counter-criticism (Barth):

Inclusivism - RAHNER
What is inclusivism?

What is Karl Rahner's argument for Inclusivism?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How does Rahner justify his position?

What are the philosophical challenges to Hick?

-
-
-

Strengths and impact of Rahner:

Criticisms of Rahner:

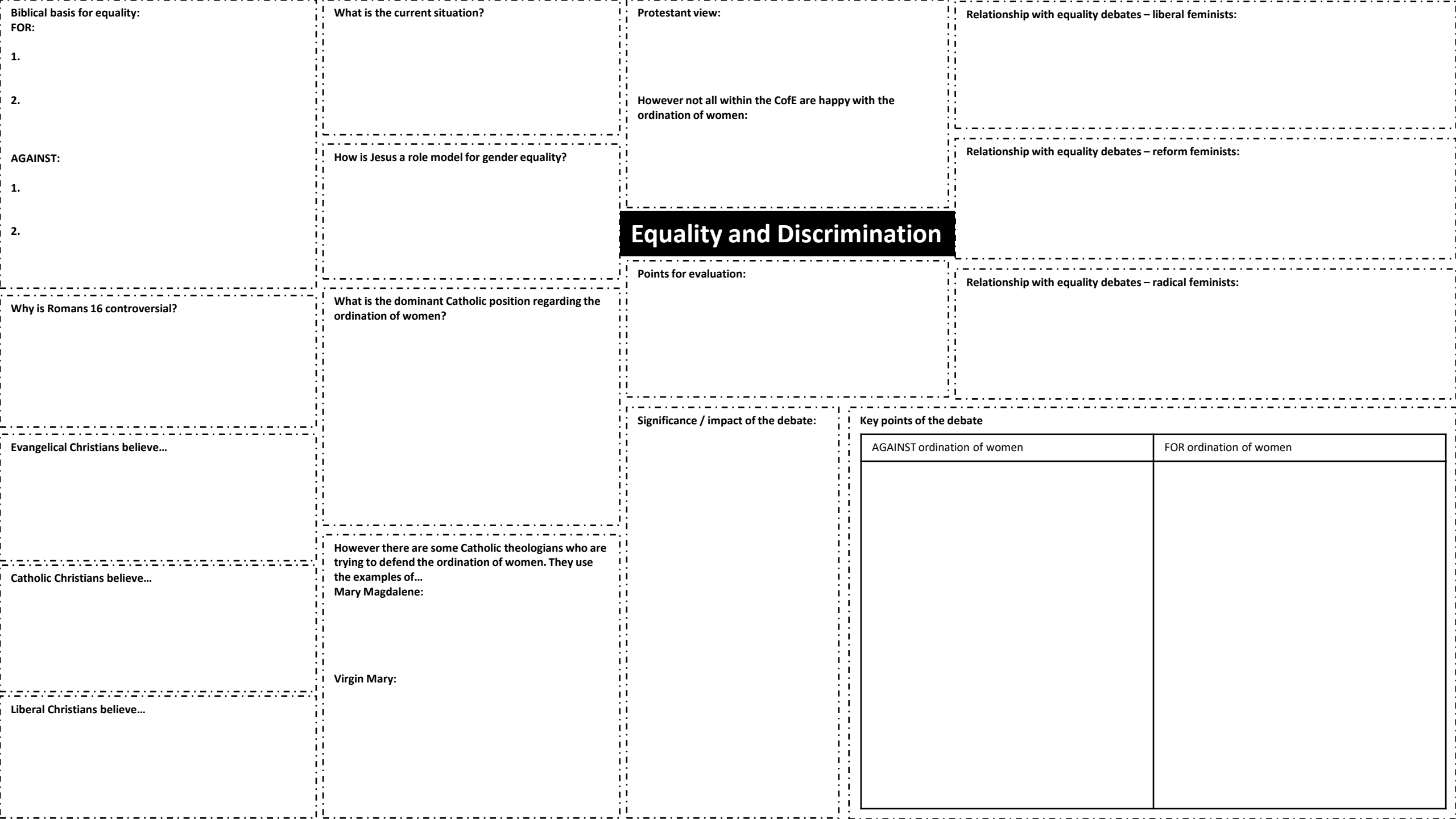
Counter-criticism:

What is the Ecumenical movement?

What are some challenges to Ecumenism?

Why are some opposed to Ecumenism?

Equality and Discrimination



Biblical basis for equality:
FOR:
 1.
 2.

What is the current situation?

Protestant view:
 However not all within the CofE are happy with the ordination of women:

Relationship with equality debates – liberal feminists:

AGAINST:
 1.
 2.

How is Jesus a role model for gender equality?

Points for evaluation:

Relationship with equality debates – reform feminists:

Why is Romans 16 controversial?

What is the dominant Catholic position regarding the ordination of women?

Relationship with equality debates – radical feminists:

Evangelical Christians believe...

What is the dominant Catholic position regarding the ordination of women?

Significance / impact of the debate:

| Key points of the debate | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AGAINST ordination of women | FOR ordination of women |
| | |

Catholic Christians believe...

**However there are some Catholic theologians who are trying to defend the ordination of women. They use the examples of...
 Mary Magdalene:**

Significance / impact of the debate:

| AGAINST ordination of women | FOR ordination of women |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | |

Liberal Christians believe...

Virgin Mary:

Significance / impact of the debate:

| AGAINST ordination of women | FOR ordination of women |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | |