

Guidance as to how you could unpack the themes
(for items from theological themes list)



THEMES	GUIDANCE AS TO HOW YOU COULD UNPACK THE THEME – YOU MIGHT...
Module 1	
sources and models for doing theology	explore the different sources for Christian theology and at least one model for doing theology (such as Wesley’s ‘quadrilateral’); and give an example of a key Christian attempt to speak of God, discussing how it drew on the sources and which source, if any, was most influential
the contextual nature of theology	explore ways in which context shapes how we do and express our theology, and give some examples of ways in which Christianity has been inculturated in your own context
discerning calling and vocation	explore what it means to be called and to have a vocation, referring to scriptural and contemporary examples, and to your own personal experience
Module 2	
the nature of the Bible and its authority	explore the nature of the Bible (for instance, when it was written, the different genres within it, the formation of the canon) and discuss a range of views about the truth and authority of the Bible and its continuing influence, reception and application today
reading and interpreting the Bible in a theologically informed way	explore the ‘Holgate & Starr’ approach to reading and interpreting Biblical texts, and to investigating their contemporary significance, giving an example of how the approach might be applied to a passage from the lectionary
meeting God in the Church’s life, worship and doctrine	explore two or three examples of imagery and attributes used to describe God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in the life, worship and doctrine of your local church
the nature and mission of the Church, focussing especially on Methodism	explore the nature of the Church and its mission, focussing especially (though not exclusively) on Methodism’s distinctive understandings, calling and priorities
the nature and purpose of corporate worship	explore the nature and purpose of Christian (corporate) worship, showing an awareness of its origins and giving some examples of how it has developed over the course of time
Module 3	
the variety of devotional practices and disciplines	explore two different devotional practices or disciplines and highlight the resources they offer for your own spiritual growth and the faith development of congregations, taking account of differences in how people best relate to God (for example, in terms of personality type)
different theological approaches to the nature of prayer	explore some different approaches to the theology of prayer – such as, why we pray and how God acts: consider which you find most convincing, and why

God's presence and activity in the world, and our participation in God's mission	explore ways in which God can be seen to be present and active in the world (as well as beyond our understanding) and consider how we may faithfully join in God's mission
whole-life discipleship, with particular reference to daily life and work, serving others, and stewardship of creation	explore how Christian discipleship can be developed within, and supported by, local churches – grounding this in specific examples
different types and styles of corporate prayer, and how this is shaped doctrinally	explore the nature and purpose of prayer, as shaped by Christian doctrine, naming different types of prayer and describing how they might be used within an act of worship
leading and enabling others to pray	explore how best to lead people in various styles of prayer, appropriate to the form and structure of public worship, the Christian season and specific context, taking due account of authorised texts
Module 4	
responding to loss, failure, anger and lament in theology, Scripture and human experience	explore some perspectives on loss, failure, anger and lament in theology, Scripture and human experience (your own experience and others')
leading worship for those experiencing trauma, with pastoral awareness and sensitivity	explore how to lead worship for those experiencing loss, failure, anger or other trauma, with appropriate pastoral perception and sensitivity
responding constructively to difference and diversity	explore aspects of difference and diversity in the Church and wider world, consider how proper account can be taken of difference and diversity when leading worship and discuss how (you and) others can be enabled to respond to difference and diversity constructively and in a theologically informed manner
an issue about which you have changed your thinking	explore how and why you have changed your thinking on one specific issue (relevant to the course) during these four modules, showing how you have applied some of the principles of reflective practice (see Module 1.1) and demonstrating how you have recognised different beliefs and perspectives, and have responded with critical self-awareness, sensitivity and respect
Module 5	
how the Bible developed	explore how the canon of the Bible was agreed, and how the Bible has been transmitted and translated, giving examples of how the Bible has impacted on (and, potentially, been impacted by) its original hearers and subsequent audiences
different critical approaches to interpreting the Bible	explore at least two different approaches to reading and interpreting Biblical texts, and to investigating their contemporary significance, considering their advantages and disadvantages and giving examples of how these approaches might be applied
major theological themes within the story of salvation	provide a brief introduction to the story of salvation, grounding it in living tradition, and detailing at least three of its major theological themes (such as creation, fall, covenant, exile, restoration, kingdom, salvation and hope)

introducing one of the writings of St Paul or the Fourth Gospel *	provide a brief introduction to one of the writings of St Paul or the Fourth Gospel, explaining why it was likely to have been produced, by whom, for whom, where, and when, and how it was shaped, giving particular attention to features highlighted in the module-section
the nature and purpose of preaching	explore at least two different approaches to the nature and purpose of preaching, considering their advantages and disadvantages and giving examples of how your preferred approach could shape your own preaching
Module 6	
the Kingdom of God – origins, development and contemporary significance	explore the history and contemporary significance of the concept of the Kingdom of God, in both personal and corporate terms
introducing one of the Wisdom writings or one of the Synoptic Gospels *	provide a brief introduction to one of the Wisdom writings or one of the Synoptic Gospels, explaining why it was likely to have been produced, by whom, for whom, where, and when, and how it was shaped, giving particular attention to features highlighted in the module-section
how to live ethically, as a Christian	explore some different approaches to Christian ethics, as featured in the module-section, and show how faith and context may help to shape the ethics of individuals and society
engaging with a significant contemporary ethical issue, as a Christian	reflect theologically on a significant contemporary ethical issue, drawing on a selection of secular and Christian ethical resources
exploring different models of preaching OR exploring different styles of worship	explore at least two different models of preaching, considering their advantages and disadvantages and giving examples of how your preferred model could shape your own preaching and how you might experiment with a model less preferred OR explore at least two different styles of worship, considering their advantages and disadvantages and giving examples of how your preferred style could shape your own worship leading and how you might experiment with a style less preferred
Module 7	
understanding salvation in the light of Methodist perspectives	explore three distinctive aspects of how Methodism understands the process of salvation, such as prevenient grace, justifying grace, sanctifying grace, assurance, or perfection
understanding who Jesus Christ is and what has he done for us	explore the nature and work of Jesus Christ, including at least three theories of how Christ has brought about our salvation and say which you find most convincing, and why
introducing one of the books of the Torah or Luke-Acts *	provide a brief introduction to one of the books of the Torah or Luke-Acts, explaining why it was likely to have been produced, by whom, for whom, where, and when, and how it was shaped, giving particular attention to features highlighted in the module-section
key milestones in the history of	provide an overview of the story of the Church from New

the Church	Testament times to the present day, picking out and detailing three key milestones
key aspects of Methodist history and contemporary identity	provide an overview of the history of Methodism and explore its distinctive identity, focussing on at least three key aspects of Methodist identity, as featured in the module-section
how a changing world impacts preaching and worship	explore key challenges and opportunities presented by a changing world (including new means of communication) and consider how preaching and worship leading might best engage effectively with contemporary contexts and questions
Module 8	
the nature and role of prophecy	explore the nature of prophecy, as a work of the Spirit, with reference to some biblical and contemporary examples, including some consideration of how certain Old Testament prophecies are, rightly or wrongly, seen by Christians as foreshadowing Christ
the nature and activity of the Holy Spirit	explore the nature of the Holy Spirit, how the concept of the Holy Spirit has evolved and its contemporary relevance, including some specific focus on, for instance, fruits of the Spirit, gifts of the Spirit or charismatic approaches to worship
introducing one biblical prophetic writing or one apocalyptic writing *	provide a brief introduction to one biblical prophetic writing or one apocalyptic writing, as featured in the module-section, explaining why it was likely to have been produced, by whom, for whom, where, and when, and how it was shaped, giving particular attention to features highlighted in the module-section
listening for God in voices from the margins	Identify some marginal prophetic voices in our contemporary context and consider how God may, or may not, be speaking to us through them, giving at least three examples
the church's call to be a prophetic community	explore what it means to be a prophetic community and why and how the church is called to be one, and consider how the People of God best discerns issues to act on and speak out about

*** if you choose more than one of the themes marked with an asterisk, please make sure that you maintain an overall balance between New Testament and Old Testament texts**