The following is an account of a conversation between the author and a man she has just met.

“Why are you a Christian? This is a brilliant question, to which I was able to reply: ‘There are lots of reasons why I am a Christian, but let me just give you two. Christianity is intellectually robust and opens itself to our scrutiny, and it is existentially satisfying’. In other words it makes sense and it is real in my experience. (The man replied) “I’ve heard people talk about their experiences of God and I don’t buy that one-but what do you mean about it being intellectually robust? We went on to talk about some of the reasons for belief in God and some of the evidence around the person of Christ....it became clear that this man had never been challenged about the person of Christ before. He ended our conversation by saying...why has no-one told me any of this before?”

Page 30, 31 “Why Trust the Bible” Amy Orr-Ewing

**Evaluate the statement ‘Christianity is intellectually robust and opens itself to our scrutiny’**

Include:

* A description of the key ideas raised in the extract above
* A discussion of how reason might help us make sense of and understand faith
* Describe the concepts central to the Christian faith
* An evaluation of whether the concepts central to the Christian faith are intellectually robust

Write a 500-word extended response that answers the question above.

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| **Marking Guide** | |
| * Makes a sound judgement based on criteria (explicit or implicit) about the statement * Demonstrates extensive understanding of the possible relationships between reason and Christianity * Describes the concepts central to the Christian faith * Presents a sustained, logical and well-structured answer using relevant terminology and concepts * Provides appropriate self-reflection in response | 9-10 |
| * Makes a judgement based on some criteria (explicit or implicit) about the statement * Demonstrates knowledge of the way a faith and reason can interact * Identifies concepts related to the Christian faith * Presents a logical and well-structured answer using relevant terminology and concepts * Provides self-reflection in response | 7-8 |
| * Makes statements about Christianity and reason * Demonstrates some knowledge of a possible relationship between faith and reason * Identifies something about the Christian faith * Presents a structured answer using relevant terminology and concepts | 5-6 |
| * Makes reference to statements about Christianity or reason * May make reference to the quote * Uses some appropriate terminology and/or concepts | 3-4 |
| * Makes a general statement about faith * May make limited reference to reason * Makes limited reference to information/terms, which may not be correct/appropriate | 0-2 |

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