What is Divine Revelation?

It is simply God showing us that he exists. Religious people believe that God is showing us that he exists all the time and it is up to us to see the signs.

There are two types of Divine Revelation

1. **Universal/General Revelation**
2. **Particular, Historical Revelation**

1. **Universal/General Revelation:**
   This is where God makes himself known to all people in all places at all times. For example nature - when we look at a beautiful landscape is this God showing himself to us, or when we see a spectacular sunset - is this God showing himself to us? When we see people showing love and compassion to each-other - is this God showing himself to us?

   This type of divine revelation gives rise to a basic religious faith - a general belief that there is a God out there somewhere who cares for us and loves us.

2. **Particular, Historical Revelation**
   This is where God has revealed himself in a particular place at a specific time to a special person or people. It is a very specific type of revelation. When God reveals himself in this way it is usually because he has a message to give out.

   This type of divine revelation plays a big part in the 3 monotheistic religions of Judaism, Islam and Christianity. For example, Christians believe that God revealed himself 2000 years ago through the person of Jesus Christ, Muslims believe that God revealed himself to the prophet Muhammad in the 7th Century and Jews believe that God revealed himself to Abraham, Moses etc.
You need to be able to discuss Divine Revelation in 2 World Religions. We will look at Christianity and Islam.

**Divine Revelation in Christianity:**

Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the high point of God's revelation to people. Christians believe that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was the Climax of God's involvement with humanity. Christians believe that this was God's ultimate way of revealing himself to humanity.

Christians believe that Jesus Christ is God made flesh. For Christians God was revealed through Jesus Christ, but not fully, the ultimate revelation will occur in the future.

The Eucharist, where we encounter the body and blood of Jesus Christ is central to Christian understanding of Divine Revelation because as we share in the Eucharist, Christ is present with us and is revealing himself to us again.

The liturgy of the Eucharist (i.e. mass) in which the continued presence of Jesus is celebrated is a key ritual for Christians.

**Divine Revelation in Islam:**

Muslims believe, like Christians, that God revealed himself to Abraham, Moses and all the other prophets of the OT.

However, Muslims believe that Jesus Christ was just another prophet among many and was not the son of God. They do not believe that Jesus was divine or in any way God-like.

They believe that Allah revealed himself one more time to the prophet Muhammad. They believe that this revelation is the ultimate, final revelation. The last piece of guidance for humanity.

This revelation is contained within the Qur’an – the holy book of Islam. They believe this book to be the exact words of God and is therefore not open to change.

The 5 pillars of Islam are 5 practices that all Muslims must carry out. They have been given directly by Allah and as such have remained unchanged for centuries.

The Qur’an – which is the direct revelation of Allah to his people is understood as the eternal word of God. It is God’s gift to his people. It is always treated with the greatest respect and reverence.