

# Examiners' Report

## June 2015

### GCSE Religious Studies 5RS03 01

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## Paper Introduction

The specification continues to be a very popular course as teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both interests and educates young people. The variety of choice within the new specification allows teachers to teach the course that most suits their students and as such the examination is unique.

Candidates produced some very interesting answers to the questions posed. The increase mean on this paper indicates that candidates have increased the maturity of their responses when answering the questions. Candidates have not only studied the topic but importantly have linked them to their everyday life and the society around them.

Unit 3 covers Roman Catholic Christianity and explores the issues that Catholics and other Christians consider in daily life. The course engages the interest of young people and it addresses many moral and spiritual issues affecting young people today, and it fulfils the requirements for the present Key Stage 4 curriculum directory for Religious Education.

It was especially pleasing to see that candidates were making relevant use of contemporary issues in their responses.

The candidates have achieved a wide range of performance levels as would be expected from an examination with mainly whole cohort entry.

The mean on this paper showed a slight increase from last year possibly as a result of Year 11 only entry. However, it might also be as a result of increased awareness of exam technique.

## Question 1 (a) (b) (c) (d)

- a) Questions asked for either a definition or examples. 1a asks for a definition of natural evil. Examples without the definition were only awarded partial marks as per the mark scheme.
- b) This was about whether people should have a religious upbringing. Answers describing a religious upbringing which did not link to the question asked gained no marks. Answers needed to include a personal opinion and better candidates used examples from religious texts as development of opinion.
- c) This question required candidates to outline how religious experiences lead to belief in God. Most candidates were able to describe religious experiences but many did not link them to belief in God. There were some excellent responses showing that many teachers were introducing candidates to modern and AS style religious arguments.
- d) The question needed candidates to evaluate a statement about whether suffering is proof that God does not exist. It was possible to use a wide range of material to respond to the question. Many candidates concentrated on the inconsistent triad and gave well thought out responses. Some found the justification for suffering more difficult. Most candidates are now familiar with the layout of the d question and were able to state their own opinion and give reasons for it in di) and give an opposite view in dii).

This question 1abcd is an example of a candidate who did not know key terms and in b and c gave only brief and simple reasons.

Write your answer here:

(a) Omniscient means god is all good

(b) I disagree that everybody should have a religious upbringing because one of the human rights is free will and everybody should have a choice whether they want to be religious or not.

I also agree that everybody should have a religious upbringing because when they are older they will have the ~~the~~ choice whether to carry on being religious or not to.

(c) A religious experience may lead people to believe in god because ~~who else would~~ the people might think who else could have given me this religious experience other than god.

Also, they might think they have evidence that god exists and therefore start to believe in him.

Also people could have been unsure as to whether god exists and a religious experience may lead them to belief in god.

Further more, only god is ~~powerful~~ Powerful enough to make religious experiences happen therefore this will lead people to believe in him.

(d) (i) I agree because why would someone or something omnipotent allow ~~it~~ suffering to occur on earth.

Also if god was omniscient then he wouldn't allow suffering to happen on earth.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because some of the ~~all~~ suffering is caused by natural disasters which god would have no control over.

Also earth is a test to see whether somebody is capable of getting into heaven and without



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

a) Incorrect answer therefore zero marks

b) The candidate has given two brief reasons – 2 marks

This answer starts with good technique as it begins with personal opinion. Then the candidate gives a reason

- 'Free will everyone have a choice'- this gains one mark as one brief reason.
- A second brief reason is given: 'then can carry on when they are older.'

This is an example of someone who is undecided and this is acceptable as they have stated I in both points.

c) The candidate has reached level 2 – 4 marks by using two brief ways

- 'Who else could have given it but God ...and therefore they believe' is a simple reason. The second point does not add anything.
- The middle paragraph does not answer the question
- 'Only God is powerful enough to make religious experiences'. Second brief way

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 2 - 4 Marks

d) (i) Two brief reasons – 2 marks

- A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides a reason 'why would an omnipotent God allow suffering.'
- A second reason -- if God was omniscient he would not allow it.

(ii) Three brief reasons, 3 marks

- Some of the disasters are natural
- Earth is a test
- Suffering allows us to know happiness

SPG + 2 marks, so it is an intermediate performance - there is general control. However, higher levels of accuracy in spelling of key terms and punctuation could be expected in this level so it is the lower mark - 2 marks



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions which are in appendix 4 in the specification.

(a) - This is an example of a candidate who read the questions carefully, understood the questions and applied their knowledge well, gaining almost maximum marks.

This is an example of a correct definition.

Write your answer here:

(a) Omniscient is the belief that God is all-knowing.

(b),(c),(d) - This is an example of a candidate who read the questions carefully, understood the questions and applied their knowledge well, gaining almost maximum marks.

(b) I don't think everyone should have a religious upbringing, firstly because I don't think it's necessary for a person to be part of a religion in order to learn ~~to~~ right from wrong, or anything else that they will need in their lives.

Secondly, if a person has a religious upbringing it could possibly give them ~~a~~ false opinions about other religions simply because of what they were taught, which could lead to them having tensions with members of other religions in their future lives.

(c) A religious experience such as a numinous experience may lead someone to believe in God as they would have felt the presence of something greater than themselves and they



could believe that that <sup>presence</sup> ~~being~~ is God.

Secondly, if ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> person witnesses a miracle, this could cause belief in God as it would seem to break a law of science & therefore make them believe that it could only have been caused by a being as powerful as God.

Thirdly they might be led to believe in God if they have a conversion experience. This would change their lives as they would devote themselves to God, as St Paul did when he went through a conversion experience which ~~led~~ <sup>lead</sup> to him believing in God.

Lastly, if a person prays to God, this could lead to them believing in him. For example, if a prayer is ~~answered~~ answered it could lead to them believing that ~~the~~ He is there & listening.

(d)(ii) continued:

\* create the world, the deity didn't care about the creatures of it which contradicts the belief he is omni-benevolent.

(d) (i) I don't agree, firstly because a lot of suffering, for example, poverty, is caused by moral evil done by humans such as wars.

Secondly, a lot of suffering in the world could actually be eradicated if people worked together to help each other, & as they ~~don't~~ have free will, by not helping they don't disprove God's existence.

Lastly, <sup>evil such as natural</sup> natural disasters don't prove God doesn't exist because although they cause suffering, they can have benefits, for example, volcanic ash makes ~~the~~ ground very fertile.

(ii) Someone may disagree with me because natural disasters prove that the world isn't perfect, & why would God create an imperfect world?

Secondly, if human actions cause suffering, then why would God grant us the ability to create dangerous weapons such as bombs?

Lastly, there is a lot of suffering that occurs in nature for example parasites that suggest that if God didn't

This is an example of a correct definition therefore 2 marks

a) begins with personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

Then the candidate gives the reason 'I don't think it is necessary. In order to learn right from wrong' - this gains one mark as one brief reason.

Then the candidate gives the reason 'it may give them false opinions' - this gains one mark as one brief reason but then the candidate develops it further by stating how this could create tension. 2marks

Two correct reasons one developed therefore - 3 marks

b) A numinous experience is defined then the candidate give the reason 'that they believe that presence is God'

A miracle is defined and the reason of proving God as powerful

A conversion experience creates devotion developed with example of St Paul leading to believe

Three ways one developed - 8 marks

Although the maximum marks are reached it is worth noting Praying is given as a fourth reason and when it is linked to answered prayers that it answers the question

Using four brief ways is level 4 - which contains 2 marks 7 and 8

The candidates QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark - if you struggle to read a question because of the language and you think it does not deserve the mark for QWC it should be sent to review

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 - 8 Marks

c) (i) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides a reason, 'a lot of suffering is done by moral evil' this is then supported by the example of war

The second paragraph does not relate to the question (it details a response to evil and suffering)

The third paragraph explains that even if God did cause natural evil often there are benefits to this and these do not prove that God does not exist.

3 marks two developed reasons

(ii) They prove the world is imperfect and why would God do this (1 brief reason)

The second paragraph God would not create humans that can cause suffering

The third paragraph ends abruptly and indicates that it finishes elsewhere - (therefore you must look to see if it has been written elsewhere - we can see that this has been written in the c section)

They complete the third reason stating that suffering suggests God can't be omnibenevolent

Three brief reasons - 3 marks

SPAG +4 High performance

Candidates spell, punctuate and use the rules of grammar with consistent accuracy and effective control of meaning in the context of the demands of the question.



## **ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

- b) Questions should begin with a statement which identifies that the answer is the candidates own opinion. In this case the candidate says 'I would agree...'
- c) Ideally candidates should start a new paragraph with each new reason they give on a c question.
- d) Candidates should ensure they clearly identify a religion in d questions, as this is clearly asked for in the question

This question is based on section one in the specification each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

## **Question 2 (a) (b) (c) (d)**

Question 2 was a lot less popular with candidates than question 1.

a) This was a glossary definition question about prayer. This question was very well answered by candidates; most candidates who did not know the glossary definition were able to give an alternative correct answer. Very few only gave an example. The description of someone who prays gained no marks.

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion and then give a reason for why they believed or did not believe God designed the world, however frequently the candidates simply described creation which did not answer the question. Better candidates discussed the design argument and developed their answers with examples from religious texts or science.

c) This question was generally well answered by candidates. The majority of candidates were able to explain how a film / programme might affect belief, some able candidates were able to link parts of films to the question in a very erudite way. The most popular examples included the Simpsons, Bruce Almighty and the News. However it was less well answered by candidates who generally described a film / programme they had watched without answering the question – i.e. how it might affect belief. Note this question did not require reference to any examples of the media.

d) Many candidates answered this question very well; they gave reasons why miracles can and cannot happen and were able to develop the argument using several examples from the media and religious texts. Many were able to give examples of modern day miracles or explain why they thought liberal miracles are God's work. Weaker responses had not understood/ read the question, and detailed a 'for and against Jesus' performing miracles.



(a) A Prayer is contacting God through words.

(b) I do not believe that God created and <sup>designed</sup> the world, because there is no proof that God even exists, so how can a being who doesn't exist, design and create a world in seven days. Also, Science has proven that it was the Big bang that created the earth, and that the world and life happening was an accident and all part of science.

(c) Some television programmes makes the Christianity look bad. For example, there is a man on television that claims he has found God and can now heal others there is no ~~proof~~ known proof if this is true or not. The thing he does that make the Christians look bad is that he makes people pay to be healed by him, and most of the time, it doesn't seem to work.

As for other programmes on the media, there is this film called Bruce Almighty, this shows the Christianity as being good, this film shows about

when he didn't believe in God, and then showed what believing in God would do for him. When Bruce believed in God, he became much more happy and had a lot more luck in his life than before.

Overall, some media shows ~~the~~ Christianity as bad, and others good. What did we expect from the media.

(d) (i) I do not believe that miracles can happen today. I never believed that miracles could ever happen. The reason I don't believe they could happen is because science has explanations for almost anything, and the reason it can't explain other things is because science isn't up to that standard yet.

(ii) Some Christians may disagree with me because they have prayed for a family member or friend to become ~~not~~ well, and their prayers have seemed to be answered, which there is no scientific explanation for.

a) Correct definition therefore 2 marks

b) Two reasons with one developed – 3 marks

No proof that God exists

Science proves – developed with the Big Bang

c) Two developed reasons – 4 marks

- Makes them look bad – developed with example of healing for payment
- Shows positives developed with what you gain if you believe

d) (i) A developed reason – 2 marks

- Science developed with science has explanations for almost everything

(ii) A developed reason – 2 marks

- The development comes before the reason in this answer.

Reason no scientific proof – developed praying for a family member being answered.

SPG + 3 marks. It is an intermediate performance - there is general control and some use of specialist terms - general control of meaning in the context of the demands of the question. Where required, the candidate uses a good range of specialist terms with facility.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

a) If a candidate changes their mind about which question they are doing they should clearly cross through work they do not want marked

b) Make sure candidates clearly read the question, and do not confuse creation, design and causation.

c) Candidates can gain maximum marks in a number of ways. Look carefully at the mark scheme.

d) Candidates should read the questions carefully and make sure they focus on the point of the question.



### Question 3 (a)

This question asks for a definition of voluntary euthanasia. Many candidates received partial rather than full marks as they failed to include all 'parts' of the definition: the person's choice, the person's death, the person's illness.

This question is based on section two in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification

This is an example of a partially correct answer

(a) it means that you take your own  
life with a tablet because your in pain



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a partially correct answer - the candidate has not given any indication that the person is ill or suffering



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Definitions should be learnt from the Edexcel glossary

(a) Voluntary euthanasia is the painless killing of someone dying from a painful disease when they ask for it.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Correct definition - 2 marks

(a) Voluntary euthanasia is the painless killing of someone dying from a painful disease when they ask for it.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is an example of an incorrect answer and highlights the need to learn the glossary definitions



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

No correct knowledge therefore zero marks.

### Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

Question 3 was significantly less popular than question 4.

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether the media should be free to criticise matters of life and death. Most used freedom of speech and how it gives people a chance to hear another opinion. Some candidates struggled to develop their answers and gave examples from other units (e.g. homosexuality and interfaith marriage) which could not be credited. Better candidates were able to refer to recent events in the media and the issues created by them.

c) The vast majority of answers to this question about why CAFOD is trying to end world poverty were very good and candidates were able to answer either by giving a number of Christian reasons, including development using biblical quotes. Lower achieving candidates included fewer reasons and relied upon secular rather than religious argument. A significant number of candidates simply detailed the work of CAFOD, not the motivation for such action, and as a result lost marks.

d) Candidates were able to give a variety of answers to support both views. Many used religious reasons in their responses such as Jesus rose and the teachings on the Bible about life after death. In addition they also used examples such as Near Death Experiences and mediums. The contrasting reasons included religious freedom and lack of proof and scientific advances proving it is impossible.

This is an example of a candidate who gains maximum marks

(b) Yes because ~~the~~ freedom of speech is a basic human right and it's how society can develop and run well. This means that the media should be allowed to give their opinions on important issues such as matters of life and death.

Secondly, if religions want to use the media to <sup>show</sup> ~~show~~ important issues then they should be ready for it to be criticised. Matters like these are very important so people want as many opinions and as much information as possible to know what to believe.

(c) CAFOD is trying to end world poverty because Jesus helped the poor and Jesus is an example of how we should live our lives, to achieve salvation.

Secondly, Jesus taught the parable of the sheep and the Goats showing that the people who are good and help others will go to heaven, which the Catechism teaches is the aim of life.

Thirdly, the Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches that we should help people in need no matter their race or religion because we are all made in the image of God.

Lastly, the Golden Rule is to treat others <sup>now</sup> ~~and~~ you want to be treated and Jesus taught to love and help your neighbor.

This includes helping the poor and suffering. This brings people closer to God and heaven.

(d) (i) I agree because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter ~~and~~<sup>S</sup>unday meaning that there is life after death. This is taught in the Bible.

Secondly, St. Paul wrote letters to the ~~and~~ early Christian Church saying that there is life after death and teaching them how to achieve it.

Lastly, it is one of the beliefs in the Creeds which is the true faith from apostolic tradition and it is taught in the Catechism, which is written by the Magisterium who are guided by the Holy Spirit.

(ii) Someone might disagree with me because there is a lack of evidence and there is no physical evidence so we can't be sure.

~~There is~~ The mind can't survive without the brain so the soul can't survive without the body. So when the body dies, so does the soul.

Lastly, different religions contradict each other as some say that there is life after death and others say that souls are reincarnated. This proves that we can't believe one thing because they don't all agree.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

b) Two developed reasons – 4 marks

- Freedom of speech developed with how it helps society to run
- Readiness for criticism developed with information argument

c) Two developed reasons – 8 marks

- Jesus helped the poor- developed with 'we should be like Jesus'
- Jesus taught us that if we help others we will go to heaven – developed with the Sheep and the Goats parable

d) (i) Three simple reasons – 3 marks

- Jesus rode from the dead
- St Paul taught about life after death
- It is the apostolic tradition

(ii) Three reasons – 3 marks

- Lack of evidence
- Soul cannot survive without the body
- Religions contradict each other



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

b) Candidates must clearly identify their reason in a b question. It can be for, against or can be undecided, as long as the candidate indicates all reasons are their own opinion rather than 'Others may think....'

c) Write each reason in a new paragraph.

d) Development must link to the question and to the reason already given.

An example of a 2 mark answer

(b) yes, because one of the basic human rights is freedom of speech, meaning anyone in the media can have their say on matters of life and death.

They should also be allowed because if religious beliefs about life and death are causing problems then the media should have the right to criticise it.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

b) Two basic reasons – 2 marks

- Freedom of speech
- Right to criticise if there are problems



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

b) Candidates can develop a reason very easily by giving a relevant example or scriptural quote.



### Question 4 (a)

Most candidates knew the definition of reincarnation. A few confused it with resurrection and gained no marks.

An example of an incorrect answer

(a) ~~reincarn~~ Reincarnation is when you ~~was~~ divorced in marriage and ~~to~~ marrying another partner



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

Incorrect definition – defines another keyword, therefore scores zero marks



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Learn the glossary definition from the Edexcel specification. It might help to have these visible around the classroom for candidates to learn.

Correct answer

(a) The belief that after death the soul is reborn into a new body.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

Correct definition therefore 2 marks



#### Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

b) Candidates were usually able to state the causes of poverty and if they thought that they were made by people – examples included debt, war and natural disasters. Most candidates were able to give one reason for their opinion, some struggled to think of two developed reasons and these were frequently repetitive. Candidates who did less well were those who provided responses to poverty such as Jesus told us to help the poor or a simple reason that poverty is created by the plenty not sharing.

c) This question required candidates to explain how Christian beliefs about life after death affect the way they live. The vast majority of candidates were able to answer well. Candidates should be encouraged to read questions carefully as to what they need to include in their response, and justify their answers. The topics covered in this section, life after death, euthanasia and abortion, are clearly listed in the specification.

d) Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to state their own opinion about whether abortion should always be allowed. Some candidates gave responses which ignored the word <always> and as such limited the marks that could be awarded.

An example of a candidate who has scored well on b and d but significantly less well on c.

(b) NO, I do not think that humans cause world poverty because world poverty is caused by Earthquakes etc, and which is natural evil and natural evil is not down to humans. Another reason why I believe humans do not cause world poverty is because humans are the ones who are effected by it the most therefore they would not cause something which would effect they way they have to live.

(c) Roman Catholic believe that life after death effect the way the live because they follow ~~rebellion and have fears that~~

~~They~~ are unsure whether reincarnation, resurrection etc actually does happen and they don't like to think that their soul won't go on when they eventually do die. They like to believe that the teachings of Jesus are correct but there is no proof that everybody's soul lives on.

(d) (i) Yes, I agree that abortion should be allowed because having a baby could effect the mother's life and getting rid of the baby would be the most loving thing to do ~~for~~ to save the mother's life. Also, I agree because you could be told that your baby could be seriously ill / ~~had~~ handicapped therefore abortion would be the right thing to ~~for~~ the baby because the baby would have no quality of life.

(ii) Other Christians may disagree because the ~~10th~~ Decalogue teaches that you should not murder and abortion is murder because they believe that life starts at conception and therefore they would be going against the teachings of Jesus. Also ~~there~~ other Christians believe that everybody should have the right to life and if you have an abortion you are taking that away from the baby.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

b) Two reasons with one developed – 3 marks

Caused by earthquakes – developed with example of natural evil

Why would they cause it if they are affected by it?

c) This is description of belief about life after death. The maximum that it can be awarded is level 1 – 2 marks

d) (i) Two reasons with one developed – 3 marks

Most loving thing to do, this is developed with saving a mother's life

Child might be disabled

(ii) Two reasons with one developed – 3 marks

You should not murder, developed with life begins at conception

Everyone has a right to life



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Candidates should be encouraged to read through their work after they have completed it to check that they have written what they intended to write.

An example of where the candidate has gained maximum marks on c and d but failed to answer b correctly.

In c they gain maximum marks after the second paragraph meaning the rest of the information is not required

(b) I do think people cause world poverty because if there were no people there would be no world poverty.

Peoples actions show how world poverty is caused. As a christian I believe that God made this world perfect and every human being perfect but that has changed by the way humans treat the world and now they treat each other.

(c) Roman Catholics believe after death their souls live on therefore they change the way they live their lives. They will change their ~~th~~ life by giving it to God and living it the way God would want them to such as being a good disciple for God and trying to live life the way Jesus lived his.

Many Roman Catholics will try their best to not sin and do everything in their power to stop. If they do sin they will then go to confession and confess their sins to God.



Going to church will become a big part of their life. Being at the place of worship is where you always feel closest to God and are able to pray in the way he would want you to.

Finally, praying will also become a very frequent thing to do. Praying before meals, before bed and as soon as you they wake up therefore they will thank God for everything he has give.

Roman Catholics believe living their life this way will get them eternal life.

(d) (i) I agree because I think that abortion is a good thing in some circumstances such as if the pregnant girl had been ~~raped~~ ~~the~~ raped, the baby would be a reminder of the person who raped her and if she was to have it and give it up for adoption she would get attached.

Also, in some cases abortion is the most loving thing to do. A mother may not be ready and have the right money to be bringing a baby into the world it would not be fair on the baby.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because the person created a baby and that baby

is innocent and wouldn't have the chance to survive.

Also, some people believe that its only God who takes gives life so its only him that can take it away and no one else has the right to do so. They believe abortion is like murder and should never take place everyone should have a chance to live.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) No correct knowledge – therefore zero marks

The response is not clear in the effect of humans on poverty.

c) Two developed ways – 8 marks

- Live how God wants developed by seek to life like Jesus
- Try their best not to sin developed with if they do they will confess.

d) (i) Two reasons with one developed – 3 marks

- Cases of rape developed with adoption is not always suitable
- Most loving thing to do

(ii) 3 simple reasons – 3 marks

- Baby is innocent
- Only God takes life
- It is like murder

In c they gain maximum marks after the second paragraph meaning the rest of the information is not required



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

b) Questions should begin with a statement which identifies that the answer is the candidates own opinion. In this case the candidate says 'I would agree...'

c) Ideally candidates should start a new paragraph with each new reason they give on a c question.

### Question 5 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for a re-constituted family, although a few gave descriptions and clearly were not familiar with the term.

This question is based on section three in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

A correct example

(a) A re-constituted family is where two parents who ~~may~~ have already married before and had kids get married and form one family with step-brothers, step-sisters etc



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Correct definition, therefore 2 marks

An incorrect answer

Write your answer here:

(a) A family that has come back together. After a split up.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is an incorrect answer and therefore is awarded zero marks

### Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

Questions 5 and 6 were equally popular with candidates.

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether sex outside marriage is acceptable. Most gave two reasons either for or against but a few made a distinction between extra marital and premarital sex and gave coherent answers where they gave reasons explaining why adultery was wrong and premarital sex was acceptable. Less able students were not able to think of more than one reason.

c) Most candidates read the question and gave reasons why divorce is allowed. A significant number gave reasons why some do not allow it. Some gave reasons for annulment and that divorce is allowed if a partner is dead. These received no credit.

Better candidates were able to explain reasons why divorce is accepted by some Christians and they were able to develop the reasons with examples and quotes from scriptures.

d) There were some excellent answers to this question which clearly held great interest for the candidates. Answers were mostly based on religious and sociological ideas surrounding the use of contraception such as health, disease and choice. The best answers to this question discussed issues such as natural and artificial contraception and the different opinions on when life begins. Many responses incorrectly detailed that Catholics are permitted to procreate only for unity.

An example of a level 3 - 6 mark response.

(b) I disagree that sex outside marriage is acceptable because as a christian i dont believe in adultery because it goes against god. Also sex was given for the procreation of childre to start a family and having sex outside marriage is going against that and that is a sin.

(c) some christians accept divorce because jesus allowed divorce in matthew 19:9 for a partners adultery therefore



Jesuw is showing that divorce is acceptable. Also, some catholic churches say it is better to divorce than live unhated all the time. Furthermore, if the couple have a family but someone is getting beaten up by the other partner it is better to divorce than to put the family through suffering. Lastly, they will allow divorce if one partner is being unfaithful to the other because unfaithfulness is a sin.

(d) (i) I agree that it is wrong to use contraception because as a christian I believe all forms of artificial contraception is a sin. Also, sex was given by God for the procreation of children and contraception is stopping that. Lastly, contraception stop things happen naturally which is a sin against god.

(ii) some christians may disagree with me because sex is given to married couples for love and if one partner has a disease then contraception may only be the way to have sex and signal love. Also, some forms of contraception isn't used for ~~some~~ sex for example the pill. Women take the pill for other issues other than sex. Lastly, contraception doesn't harm the body, therefore it should be allowed.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) One brief reason and one developed reason – 3 marks

- It is adultery
- Sex is to start a family developed sex outside of marriage is a sin

c) Two reasons with one developed – level 3-6 marks

- Jesus allowed divorce, developed with the example of how he permitted it for adultery

Catholic point is incorrect and is ignored

- Better to divorce than suffer

Unfaithfulness is a repeat of the previous statement on adultery and is not credited

d) (i) Three simple reasons – 3 marks

- All forms of artificial contraception are a sin
- Stops procreation
- Stops what is natural

(ii) Two reasons one developed – 3 marks

- Sex is for love is the development with the reason being stops disease
- Women take the pill for issues other than sex



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should practice developing reasons. This can be done in class by pairing candidates, asking them each to write a reason and swap with each other to develop the reason.

## Question 6 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition of re-marriage. Those who did not were usually able to define it using alternative wording.

This question is based on section three in the specification: each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

(a) Re-marriage is when someone who has been divorced & gets married again.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Correct definition, therefore 2 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the Edexcel glossary definitions which are in Appendix 4 in the specification.

(a) remarrige is getting married again again after getting divorced



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Candidates should learn the Edexcel glossary definitions which are in Appendix 4 in the specification.

## Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

Question 6 was an equally popular choice with question 5.

b) This was answered well and most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether attitudes to homosexuality have changed and most linked their reasons to modern understanding of homosexuality or scriptural teachings about homosexuality. Many responses detailed the role of the media and celebrities to illustrate the change in attitude.

c) Many candidates showed a good knowledge of the purposes of marriage. Some candidates were not able to link these to the marriage ceremony and therefore, despite clearly having the knowledge required, could not get maximum marks. Other candidates referred to pre-marriage courses, which were not part of the question.

d) Most candidates were able to give reasons backing their view about whether divorce is bad for family life in di) and reasons for an alternative view in dii). More able candidates quickly realised this was not a 'for and against' divorce question. They responded to the question as it was posed and they used examples to support their opinion. Poorer candidate responses simply gave arguments for and against divorce and made no reference to family life.

Development in b and 3 simple reasons in c. D makes a clear reference to the question about divorce being bad for family life.

(b) I do think attitudes towards homosexuality have changed. Firstly, this is because homosexuality used to be a crime, whereas now, homosexual couples are able to have the same rights as straight married couples through a civil partnership. Moreover, attitudes towards homosexuality have changed as it is widely celebrated all over the world through festivals and parades such as Pride which support homosexual people and give everyone the opportunity to celebrate their differences together.

(c) The different purposes of marriage are displayed in different parts of a Roman Catholic ~~wedding~~ wedding ceremony. Firstly, the purpose of love and unity in



marriage is shown in readings that may be said at the service. These readings often contain messages about love and unity between people.

In addition, the vows which are said are promises both to God and each other that they will be faithful and loving throughout the marriage. This displays the purpose of trusting each other and being truthful and loyal throughout marriage.

Furthermore

(d) (i) I agree with this statement. Firstly, this is because children do not have constant guidance and support from both parents and ~~therefore~~ this may affect them.

Furthermore, Roman Catholic Christianity forbids divorce and therefore families of marriage partners who wish to divorce may disagree and this could cause conflict. Finally, if a couple divorces then the children may take sides with one parent and this could cause problems for everyone involved.

(ii) However, some people may disagree with me. Firstly, they may ~~argue~~ argue that if a couple who wish to divorce do not divorce, then they

will argue all the time, so divorce would be the most loving thing for everyone involved. Moreover, it is better for children to see their parents getting along, and a couple may get along better if they divorce and don't see each other as often.



### **ResultsPlus** Examiner Comments

This is an example of how b is developed in detail, but c has a mixture of development and simple.

b) Two developed reasons – 4 marks

- No longer a crime, developed with rights to civil partnership
- Widely celebrated world wide – developed with pride and parades

C) Two reasons, one developed – 6 marks

- Readings show love and unity
- Vows to each other – developed by 'shows purpose of trust and loyalty'

d) (i) 3 simple reasons – 3 marks

- Loose guidance of both parents
- Can cause conflict
- Children may take sides

(ii) Two reasons, one developed, 3 marks

- Argue all the time – most loving thing to do
- Better for children if parents get along better



### **ResultsPlus** Examiner Tip

b) Candidates should separate their two reasons by using a new paragraph for each one.

d) Candidates can use development and examples in d sub-questions to improve their answers.

(c) The purposes of marriage are shown in the roman catholic wedding ceremony ~~the the~~ through many ways one is through the giving of rings because this symbolises that you are going to be with each other forever and that love is a never ending ~~the~~ circle which cannot be broken.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

c) a brief way – 2 marks  
Rings show together forever



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

c) Candidates will be able to check they have written sufficient to gain full marks by using a paragraph for each reason.

### Question 7 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for religious freedom and were awarded full marks. However, some candidates used the definition for religious pluralism and gained no marks

Write your answer here:

(a) Religious freedom is <sup>having</sup> the right to practise or  
change your religion



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Correct definition - 2 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates need to know the key terms not only because of the (a) questions but also because the other sub-questions require them.



## Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

Question 7 was an equally popular choice with question 8.

It was noticeable that many responses here were incomplete; candidates should be advised to spend about 20 minutes on each question.

b) Better candidates were able to answer this question about equal rights in religion, using both the information they had been taught and their personal experience. Lower scoring responses confused equal rights in religion with equal rights in society, and gained no marks.

c) Most candidates responded well to this question and were able to use their knowledge of different Christian attitudes to other religions, using terminology such as inclusivism, pluralism and exclusivist. Some developed their reasons using biblical quotes. However, some candidates did not answer this question or were unable to give more than one accurate reason.

d) Most candidates were able to respond to the quote about whether conversion is desirable, but many were unable to use scripture or evidence to support their reasons. Many confused the different attitudes of religions to conversion.

Some candidates did not refer to Catholic Christianity. Once again, it needs to be emphasised that in part (d) questions candidates should check that they have included a reference to Roman Catholic Christianity.

Some candidates were able to give their own opinion and reasons for it but were unable to explain why others might disagree with their opinion. It is important that for d) questions candidates are encouraged to fully discuss both their own opinions and reasons for them and those opinions that other people might hold.

A good example of a high scoring answer let down by lack of reference to Roman Catholic Christianity.

(b) yes, men and women have equal rights amongst society so should have <sup>equal</sup> rights in religion other wise the religion is sexist which is a sin as religion promote equality. Also God treated women ~~the~~ with respect if a time <sup>when women</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> second class citizens so should be treated with more respect now as they are equal to men.

(c) Some Christians are Exclusivists and believe their religion is the only right religion because in the decalogue ~~is~~ Christians are taught to follow God and only God so other religions are wrong.

Also the bible teaches our God is the only God so if other Gods don't exist there is no other religion other than Christianity. Other ~~religions~~ Christians believe Christianity is the one ~~truth~~ true path to God and heaven but other religions are different paths to the same place, this is because the bible teaches there are multiple rooms in heaven suggesting there is room for all religions. Finally some ~~religions~~ Christians <sup>are pluralists and</sup> believe all religions are right and lead to God as most religions focus on love, peace and forgiveness.

(d)(i) The government already promotes community cohesion by teaching people about the similarities amongst religions so people are aware that religions aren't dissimilar. They also show the differences between them so people are aware of the different views and can respect them, making people aware of similarities and differences ~~the~~ makes similar values clear so religions can work together to achieve them. Some believe this is enough to encourage community cohesion as it has to be individuals to actually make it happen.

(ii) On the other hand some feel this isn't enough and the Government should pass laws to

Stop any kind of discrimination and set specific values that everyone has to work for linked to religion, ~~not just~~ rather than just using ones <sup>straight</sup> from religion because some might feel their values aren't included or certain values don't apply to them.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

b) Two reasons with one developed – 3 marks

- It is sexist' is the reason developed with religions promoting equality
- God treated women with respect' – it is not developed by the additional 'now they are equal.'

c) Two developed reasons – 8 marks

- Begins with one developed reason for exclusivist; however they do repeat the development on the top of the second page
- There is only one true path to God but other religions have different paths developed by multiple rooms in Father's house.

There is further reading, but the candidate has reached the maximum 8 marks.

d) (i) Three simple reasons 3 marks

- They already do this -- 'teaching people similarities'
- States an example of 'differences '
- It is the role of individuals to make it happen

d) (ii) has no reference to RC, so zero marks



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Candidates should use examples as development in c sub-questions.

Remember to read through your work after you have completed it to check that you have written what you intended to write and that you cannot add anything else to your answers. In part (d) questions you should check that you have included a reference to Roman Catholic Christianity.

(b) Yes I do think men and women should have equal rights in religion because if they don't have equal rights then it is going against Jesus' teachings that everybody is equal. Also it's going against Jesus' teachings about free will.

(c) There are differences among Christians in their ~~(attitudes)~~ attitudes to other religions because some Christians believe different beliefs than other religions. For example Christians believe everybody has the right to freedom of speech so if another religion does not believe that, then the Christian attitude towards that religion might change.

Also one person could agree with the beliefs of another religion but another person may disagree with them. This would cause differences in the attitudes.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

b) One Brief reason – 1 mark

Jesus taught everyone is equal (Matthew 23.8)

c) This response is simply paraphrasing the question it is not answering it – no relevant reasons – Zero marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Read each question carefully

### Question 8 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for prejudice. A few candidates gained no marks as they defined discrimination instead.

This is a partially correct answer – therefore 1 mark

(a) Prejudice is treating someone differently because of their religion.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Partially correct as it details a prejudice based on race – therefore 1 mark

This is an incorrect answer

(a) The belief that some races are inferior or superior to each other is compared to others.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

An incorrect definition gains zero marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

This is the easiest way to get full marks on (a) - learn the glossary definitions.



### Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on section four in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

Questions 8 and 7 were equally popular with candidates.

It was noticeable that many responses here were not complete; candidates should be advised to spend about 20 minutes on each question

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion as to whether living in a multi-faith society reduces racism using both the information they had been taught and their personal experience. Lower scoring responses confused 'multi-faith' with 'multi-ethnic' and gained no marks.

c) This question was well answered by candidates who had been clearly taught about interfaith marriages and could understand the issues raised.

d) Some candidates left this question blank as they had clearly run out of time. Most candidates were able to respond to the quote. Many had obviously been taught community cohesion very well and they were able to reason why the government should do more. Weaker responses were very one sided and failed to include a religious response.

A c answer with three reasons, one developed

(c) Interfaith marriage could cause problems for religious people because the two faiths could affect the way they live and the way they raise their

family. For example when they have children they will have the issue of whose religion do you raise the children with. Also it could cause problems because the religions could have complete different ideas and values and could affect the way they interact and live as a couple. There is also the fact that when they get married where do they go if it is whose faith do they do the ceremony with.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

Three reasons, one developed

- It can cause problems for the family – they then develop with example of which faith to raise the child in.
- A difference in morals affects the couple
- The problem over which ceremony to have.

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 - 8 Marks



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

c) Candidates should use examples as development in c sub-questions



(b) yes I do think living in a multi-ethnic society reduces racism because we learn more about the religion and understand its customs better. We also get used to the religion so racism is reduced. However, it could cause ~~for~~ racism because ~~if a~~ ~~certain~~ certain religion or race may not agree with another religion or race.

(c) An interfaith marriage is when two people from different religions get married. It could cause problems because the couple would not know what type of ceremony to have. For example, ~~a couple may not know~~ <sup>catholic</sup> ~~where~~ one partner is ~~English~~ and the other person is Muslim. They wouldn't know what ceremony. A traditional church wedding or a Muslim wedding.

It can also cause a problem in family life as the couple won't know what ~~if~~ religion the children should have. This could cause

disputes across both families which may lead to a divorce. An interfaith marriage could even be used for a green card to allow a person to stay, these are known as Sham marriages as the couple will not fully love each other. This could also be a problem across religious people.

(d) (i) No, I believe that people are free to make their own decisions on what religion to follow and they should ~~not~~ not be forced to choose a certain religion. I also think that if they are already following a certain religion, for example Christianity, they should remain in that religion as converting from it may be seen as a sin.

(ii) Some people will disagree because by converting yourself to another religion will make you learn new things and you can experience something new. For example, if a Muslim does not agree with Islamic teachings they can convert themselves to Christianity because they may understand their teachings more.

b) A brief reason – 1 mark

The candidate has mixed up multi faith and multi ethnic - however in the final sentence they make reference to races coming into conflict with each other

c) Two reasons with one developed is level 3

- Starts with definition of interfaith marriage which is not worthy of any credit.
- Brief reason given 'couple would not know which type of ceremony to have' an example is given but it does not develop the answer any further
- Second reason is the religion of children this is developed by stating that this could create arguments in families and even divorce

The final section about sham marriage it does not explain why interfaith marriage is a problem

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 3 - 6 Marks

d) (i) Two reasons one developed – 3 marks

- 'people are free to make their own decisions' – developed with they should not be forced
- converting could be seen as a sin – one simple reason

(ii) One simple reason

- converting means you can learn more -- This response does not have any reference to RC religion so cannot go beyond 3 marks in total



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

b) Candidates can develop a reason very easily by giving a relevant example or scriptural quote.

c) Candidates will be able to check they have written sufficient to gain full marks by using a paragraph for each reason.

d) Candidates must ensure that at least one reason on a d sub-question must be religious

## Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates should:

- Make a choice of two questions per section, each as four sub questions, candidates can either attempt the sub-questions in the top questions (odd numbers) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even numbered). Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all their questions and as such are at a clear disadvantage.
- Indicate which question they have answered by crossing in a square at the top of the paper. Some candidates did not do this. They should be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation.
- Look at the space on the examination paper. The amount of lines given is more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks; there is no need for candidates to write more than this. If candidates write more than can be inserted into the allocated space they are using up too much time on that particular question and inevitably will place themselves at a disadvantage later in the paper. Almost all the candidates who used extra paper had already achieved maximum marks of that question. Any candidate who needs extra space can use that space allocated to other questions as long as they clearly indicate on their paper that this is what they have done.
- Think of the timing. There were a number of candidates who did not complete the final section this year due to timing difficulties. Candidates should be encouraged to spend about twenty minutes per question, leaving ten minutes to check through work at the end of the paper.
- Write using a black pen, this is important so that clear images are reproduced.

## **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>



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