

Examiners' Report

June 2016

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS03 01

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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.

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)

Question 1 was less popular with candidates than question 2.

Question 1. All (a) questions ask for either a definition or examples.

1(a) asks for a two examples of moral evil.

A definition of moral evil was only awarded partial marks as per the mark scheme.

This question was very well answered by candidates; most candidates who attempted this question got full marks.

b) This was about whether Catholics should believe in scientific explanations of the origin of the world. Answers describing the creation story which did not link to the question asked gained no marks. Answers needed to include a personal opinion and better candidates used examples from science and ethical theories as development of opinion.

c) This question required candidates to explain how Roman Catholics respond to the problem of evil and suffering.

Most candidates were able to describe the responses. Many gave specific examples to problems, e.g. they respond to a natural disaster by giving money or aid to CAFOD. 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 the design argument proves that God exists.

It was possible to use a wide range of material to respond to the question. Many candidates concentrated on Paley and gave well thought-out responses. Some found the justification for design argument proving the existence of God 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).

(a) Give two examples of moral evil.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; this includes the key words which are at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

Candidates who achieved 2 marks on this question were able to give two examples confidently. The majority of candidates answered this question well.

Write your answer here:

(a) War and terrorism.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of a candidate who gives two correct examples of moral evil.

In the b,c,d example the candidate has achieved maximum marks.

The di answer is one fully developed reason that gains 3 marks.

(b) I think Roman Catholics ^{shouldn't} ~~should~~ agree with the scientific explanation of the origins of the world. Firstly because the earth is finely-tuned for humans and something so specifically made for us must be created by God as he is omnipotent and omniscient. Secondly something as complex as the universe and that has so much detail must have a maker. In the same way Paley's watch had a watch maker, the universe must have a universe maker which science cannot ~~explain~~ explain.

(c) ~~Many~~ Catholics respond to the problem of evil and suffering in many ways. Firstly, they believe everyone is granted with free will from God at birth, so God cannot prevent ~~all~~ moral evils as this will deprive us from free will. Secondly, God is omnibenevolent, and created us all in his image. Therefore we must all be good, however we are born with original sin, and ~~because of this~~ ~~because of this~~ if we choose to take advantage of our free will then we won't earn eternal life with God in heaven. Thirdly, natural evil can be explained because bad things have to happen for us to be able to see the good, and appreciate God's omnibenevolence. Finally, Natural evil shows God is ~~actively working on Earth~~ ~~actively working on Earth~~ and shows his work on Earth.

(d) (i) The Design Argument ~~shows~~ proves that God exist. Firstly because some as complex and as ~~big~~ large as the universe must have have an omnipotent creator, which could only be God. Secondly, ~~the universe~~ the univers is finely tuned for humans and has alot of detail, so only a 'God that is all-loving could have created it. Thirdly, paley's watch Proves that God exists, ~~as the watch~~ because

Something as complex and as detailed as a watch needs a watchmaker, therefore something as complex as the universe must need a universe maker. ^{This proves that God created the universe and not science, Proving God exists}

(ii) However, Someone may disagree with me because the theory of evolution can clearly explain the the universe & it's complexities were formed. Secondly Mendel ~~agreed with this~~ was a Genetisist and a monk agreed ^{to} the theory of evolution and that it was a likely cause of the universe. Thirdly the Big Bang theory was a joint discovery with a priest, therefore ~~it doesn't~~ God doesn't necessarily exist.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In this example of (b) candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons.
b) Begins with personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks).

The first reason 'the earth is finely tuned and specifically made' developed with 'God as omnipotent'. The second point is 'there is so much detail it must have had a maker' the example of Paley's watch is awarded as development, therefore 4 marks.

c) This is an example of 3 ways with one developed - Level 4 - 8 marks.

The first way 'everyone is granted free will' this is development of 'God cannot prevent moral evil' (moral evil is an example of evil). The second way 'original sin'. Final way 'be able to see the good'. Level 4 - 8 marks. Three ways with one developed.

di) It has no personal claim but dii says 'someone may disagree with me' therefore we presume that di) is their own opinion. A fully developed reason, 'Something as complex must have had an omnipotent creator' developed with 'could only be God'. They use the term creator but they link this to design. This is then further developed with the fact that the world is 'finely tuned'. The third mark is given for the point about Paley's watch. The second point is not credited because it does not clearly link to the design argument. dii) Level 3 - 3 marks, 3 simple reasons. One mark for 'complexities'. A second mark is given for 'agreed with the theory of evolution'. The third mark is given at the 'big bang doesn't necessarily mean that God exists'.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

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

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

Question 2 was significantly more popular with candidates than question 1.

a) This was a glossary definition question: What does omnipotent mean? 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 incorrect answer which was a definition of another keyword, for example 'all knowing'.

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion and then give a reason for why they believed or did not believe God caused the world; however, frequently the candidates simply described creation, the big bang and design which did not answer the question. Better candidates discussed the causation 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 religious upbringing may lead to belief in God.

The most popular examples included parents teaching you to pray, attending Mass, going to a Catholic school. However it was less well answered by candidates who generally outlined the features of a sacrament without answering the question.

d) Many candidates answered this question very well; they gave reasons why unanswered prayers can and cannot alter belief in God and were able to develop the argument using several examples from their lives and media. Many were able to give examples of their own unanswered prayers.

Weaker responses had not understood/ read the question, and detailed a 'for and against God existing'.

This is an example of a fully correct a).

The b) response does not answer the question and is therefore zero.

(a) God is all powerful.

(b) Some people may agree because of something they have heard leading to God.

however others may disagree because if all the bad things are happening in the world

if God is real why doesnt he stop it? instead of letting people suffer with illnesses why doesnt he cure them.

Also ~~states~~ others may think
g it is they go to church and
the bible every thing in it is
the word of God which is true
So therefore there is a God.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- a) Fully correct answer therefore 2 marks; they know the glossary definitions.
- b) No personal view; the B section requires a personal opinion.
- c) No relevant content - the candidate clearly does not understand the question.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

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

This is an example of a C answer that has reached level 4 - 8 marks by using 2 developed points.

The d) section again is maximum marks and includes reference to Roman Catholic Christianity.

(c) firstly because if you are a Roman Catholic you will get your child baptised which is the first step of becoming closer to God, and in the future you would be sent to a catholic school where you would make your holy communion which would lead to you believing in God.

Secondly because you would take your child to the local church which you would then pray to God and learn all his teachings, this means that you will have a good understanding of God which may lead you to believe in him.

Thirdly if you lived in a catholic community you would make lots of friends who are also being brought up to believe in God which means you would believe in him even more if there friends were doing it.

finally children tend to listen to there parents and look up to them as role models so if they believe in God and pray you will copy them which means that you will become close to God and believe in him.

(d) (i) I disagree with this statement as the prayers may have been selfish which means that ~~that~~ it would be unfair for God to answer them, also because as a Roman Catholic I know that God gave us free will and if the prayer is to ~~stop~~ stop moral evil God couldn't answer that prayer as it is done by humans. finally because even though the prayer may benefit you it may negatively affect another person's life which means that God cannot answer that prayer.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because if a Roman Catholic we know that God is all omnibenevolent and so if he loved us he would answer our prayers. Also if you have been a Good Catholic all your life and going to church and you pray to God and ask him for something and get no response from him or he doesn't answer it it may cause you to become Atheist. Finally if a close friend or family member is really ill and in pain and you ask God to help them and they die it may cause you not to believe in God.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

c) Level 4 – 8 marks - Two developed ways.

First way is 'they are baptised', developed with 'this is the first step to come closer to God'. Second way is that they are sent to a Catholic school, developed with 'receive holy communion which would lead you to believe in God'.

The rest of the information given is correct; however there are no more marks for the candidate to obtain.

di) One developed and one simple reason.

First reason - Prayer may have been selfish developed with 'it would be unfair for God to answer'; second reason - God gave us free will and so cannot answer things that go against this.

dii) Three simple reasons

God is omnibenevolent. Go to Church and pray and get no response. Ask God to help a family member in pain and they die.

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

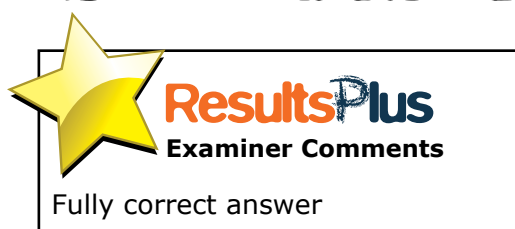
c) Candidates can gain maximum marks in a number of ways. Look carefully at the mark scheme.

Question 3 (a)

This question asks for a definition of resurrection. Many candidates received partial rather than full marks as they failed to include the body being raised or rising after death. Many gave the example of Jesus and therefore received 1 mark as per mark scheme. Some response confused the word resurrection with reincarnation and therefore received zero marks.

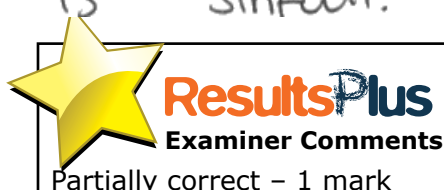
This is a correct answer using the glossary definitions

- (a) the believe that after death the body stays in the grave until the end of the world when it is raised.
- (b) I think that euthanasia (the painless killing of some one dying from a painful disease) should be allowed in the UK because if someone is in great pain and asks

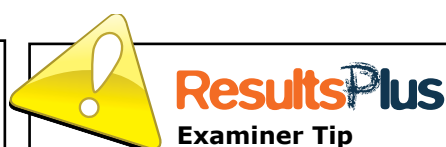


This is an example of a partially correct response

- (a) Resurrection is the asention of a soul into Heaven after death.
- (b) No as it is only Gods decision to take a life and by taking someones life you are playing God which is sinfull.



The mark is given for the reference to Ascension as it indicates a rising



Candidates should be prepared to give the glossary definition.

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 euthanasia should or should not be allowed in the UK. Most were able to use religious reasons such as the sanctity of life as well as how it would be against the role of a doctor's job to save people.

c) The vast majority of answers to this question about the media being free to criticise matters of life and death used reference to freedom of speech, religion can criticise the media and how criticism can educate people.

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. Some candidates had not read the question correctly and gave a for and against the media being free to criticise.

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 a lack of proof and scientific advances proving it is impossible.

This is an example of a candidate who gains maximum marks.

(b) I do not think that euthanasia should be allowed in the UK, firstly because allowing euthanasia would mean that the doctor - patient trust could be threatened for example some people may be anxious that their doctor is going to force them to euthanise. Therefore I don't think it should be legal.

Secondly, allowing euthanasia into the UK could cause a slippery slope to non-voluntary euthanasia for example people may force elderly people to euthanise so they can get inheritance tax.

Thirdly, some people may also think that the media should

Secondly, people pay a fee to watch television so they should be allowed to express and listen to all different opinions about life after death.

Thirdly, some people also think that the media should

be allowed to criticise because people are entitled to make their own opinions and talk about them to others for example in the ^{BBC} television programme 'How to die' in February 2015 it discussed different peoples opinions of ~~the~~ Simon Binner who had motor neuron disease and was going to go to Dignitas to euthanise. The programme discussed ~~fairly~~ both sides, religious belief and non-religious belief.

Fourthly some people also think the media can criticise religious beliefs ~~because~~ about life after death because people can then choose which ~~arguement~~ they believe in for example ~~documentaries~~ television programmes dealing with issues like abortion and euthanasia may help a person see both sides of the argument so it may help them decide themselves what to do.

(d) (i) I disagree with this statement for the following reasons.

Firstly, Roman Catholic Catechism and the Church teaches the immortality of the soul, therefore the soul never dies and lives on in another life, this means that there is life after death.

Secondly, some non-religious people also believe in life after death because either they have or have known someone that has experienced an out of body experience or near-death experience. These people ^{often} state that they ^{often} saw a blinding white light and felt a presence of something calming.

Thirdly, Roman Catholics also believe in life after death because it gives them hope that after this life they still have a purpose on Earth.

(ii) However some people may disagree with me.

Firstly, some people may argue that there is no scientific proof in that there is life after death therefore it does not exist as no one has proved it is true.

Secondly, some people believe in materialism, this means that only physical things are real, life after death is not a physical thing on the Earth therefore it must not exist.

Thirdly, some people may say there is no life after death because the body rests in the ground and there is no proof of a soul therefore people can't say there is life after death.



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b) 2 developed reasons – 4 marks.

First reason - doctor/patient trust can be threatened developed with making people anxious; second reason - slippery slope developed with force elderly people.

c) 2 developed and 1 brief reason – 8 marks.

First reason - it is a good thing for Christians to hear others' views developed with how it can strengthen their own belief; second reason - they pay a fee so should be allowed to listen to other view; third reason - entitled to make their own opinion - this is developed with an example, but the candidate has already reached the maximum number of marks.

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS.

di) One developed and one simple reason - 3 marks.

First reason - Catholic Church teaches immortality of the soul developed with 'this is taught in the catechism'; second reason - out of body developed with the example.

dii) 2 reasons with one developed – 3 marks.

No scientific proof; people believe in materialism developed with 'life after death not a physical thing'.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Ensure you read the question carefully.

Question 4 (a)

A significant number of candidates knew the definition of assisted suicide; a few confused it with euthanasia and gained no marks.

Paraphrase of correct definition.

Write your answer here:

- (a) Giving someone the means of taking their own life by suicide



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Examiner Comments

Correct answer – therefore 2 marks.

The candidate has almost used the exact wording from the mark scheme, so they provide a completely correct answer.

An example of a partially correct answer

- (a) Assisted suicide is when you help someone to die who is able to ask you.



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Examiner Comments

a) Partially correct - therefore 1 mark. The answer does not detail that the person who has requested assisted suicide has done it themselves.



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Examiner Tip

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

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

This set of questions was significantly more popular than question 4.

b) Candidates were usually able to state some non-religious reasons for believing in life after death – examples included paranormal, mediums, near death experiences. Most candidates were able to give two reasons for their opinion; some struggled to think of the development in the reasons and these were frequently repetitive. Candidates who did less well were those who provided responses why they should believe because Jesus told us there was life after death.

c) This question required candidates to explain why most Christians do not agree with euthanasia. 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.

d) Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to state their own opinion about whether abortion should be allowed. Some candidates gave responses which had no reference to Roman Catholic Christianity and as such limited the marks that could be awarded.

This is an example of a candidate who achieves full marks.

(b) yes I think they should because there are still proven paranormal experiences such as witnessing a ghost which mean that there must be proof of your soul living after death.

Also because some non-religious people have had near death experiences which mean they have nearly died but have been brought back and they may have visualized ~~the~~ the life after death without having that experience.

Secondly because the Sanctity of life teaches us that life is holy and belongs to God which means that that life belongs to God so by killing them you are going against God's will.

Thirdly the 10 commandments teaches us to not kill which is what would happen if you killed someone, which is why some Christians are against it as God wouldn't want us to disobey ~~the~~ his rules.

finally if it was voluntary euthanasia where they are unable to ask they may not want you to kill them but you think they do ~~and~~ which means you have ended their life when they wasn't ready to die.

(d) (i) I disagree with this statement as if the mother has been raped it is unfair for her to give birth to a child that wasn't intentionally created and that will be a reminder of pain. Also if the mother or babies life is at risk ~~yet~~ it would be sensible to end the babies life before it has developed than 2 people die. finally because if the baby was going to have a disability or ~~the~~ be paralysed it would be unfair on the baby to put them through a life of pain and misery.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because. Roman Catholics believe that God created each individual life for a reason and ~~for~~ to abort the baby is like destroying God's creation. Also because it would be classed as murder which goes against the 10 commandments and would



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) 2 developed reasons – 4 marks.

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

Paranormal experience developed with the example of ghost being proof of your soul.

Near death experience developed with an example of one.

c) 2 developed reasons – 8 marks.

Only God should take lives away from people developed with the example of murder.

Sanctity of life teaches us that life is holy developed by breaking this is against God's will.

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS.

di) 2 reasons with one developed – 3 marks.

Mother is raped, it is unfair developed with she should not need a constant reminder.

Sensible to end life before it kills 2 people.

dii) 2 reasons with one developed – 3 marks.

God created each individual for a reason developed with the example 'it's destroying God's creation'.

It would be classed as murder.



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

(b) I think non religious people should believe in life after death because if they believe in ~~god~~ ghost or spirits then they believe in life after death because it is the soul or body of a dead person.

on the other hand I think they shouldn't have to believe in life after death because they could say your soul doesn't live on it dies with you.

(c) Christian do not agree with ~~the~~ euthanasia because you are ending someone's life and only God has the power to do that.

Secondly, people may not because in the Ten Commandments it says do not kill and euthanasia is doing that

Thirdly, ~~people~~ christian do not believe in it as well because if someone was

very ill but didn't want to die but the doctor do it anyways is wrong.

(d) (i) I think christian should be against abortion because in the Ten Commandment it say you shall not kill but abortion is killing anyways.

Secondly, ~~Jesus~~ God said make new life but abortion is taking life away.

Finally abortion can lead the mother to have side effect and do something wrong.

(ii) On the other people can say if the baby is going to be hardy cared then you should get rid of it.

Secondly, if you are giving birth but only one of you can live people normally say the baby has to die. Finally, only God can ~~take~~ life.



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Examiner Comments

b) 2 brief reasons – 2 marks

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

First reason - belief in ghosts and spirits

Second reason - the soul does not live on

Neither point is developed to gain further marks

c) 3 brief reasons - 6 marks

Reason 1 - Only God has power to end life

Reason 2 - Euthanasia is against Ten Commandments

Reason 3 - Could be against people's wishes

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not
the quality of their RS

di) 3 simple reasons – 3 marks

Shall not kill

Abortion is taking away life

Can have side effects

dii) 2 simple reasons – 2 marks

Baby disabled

Only one can live



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Examiner Tip

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

Question 5 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for premarital sex, although a few gave a definition of adultery.

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

A correct example.

(a) Pre-marital sex is when two people have sex before marriage.



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Examiner Comments

Correct definition, therefore 2 marks.

A partially correct answer.

(a) pre-marital sex is an act of sex outside marriage.



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Examiner Comments

Partially correct answer, 1 mark.

As per mark scheme for outside of marriage.

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 attitudes towards divorce changing in the UK.

Most gave two reasons either for a change in the attitudes but many gave reasons for divorce such as adultery and a few why this was wrong.

Less able students were not able to think of development to go with the reasons they gave.

c) Most candidates read the question and gave reasons why Christians allow the use of contraception. A significant number gave reasons why some do not allow it. Others detailed incorrectly that the Catholic Church allows it for premarital sex.

These received no credit.

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

d) There were some outstanding answers to this question which clearly held great interest for the candidates. Answers were mostly based on religious and sociological ideas surrounding the idea of sex outside of marriage. Most candidates referred to premarital sex and adultery. The best answers to this question discussed issues such as the law permits sex outside of marriage, the different church teachings and the change in attitudes towards premarital sex.

An example of a candidate who gets full marks.

(b) Yes, because within today's society divorce is no longer frowned upon as much as it was around fifty years ago. Therefore, many people find themselves getting divorced without worrying what others may think.

Also, it is more accepted now due to the decline in Christian authority. For instance, not as many people go to church or live by Christian teachings that say divorce is wrong. Therefore, divorce is more common and accepted as it is seen as normal.

use of contraception may be the better option.

Also, because a woman may have already had children. For example, she may have already fulfilled one of the

christian purposes of marriage which is procreation. As a result, sex may be now intended for pleasure and no longer children.

In addition, the use of contraception can prevent the spreading of diseases. An example of this are STD's which can cause terminal illness and even death. Therefore, contraception is accepted as it can often save lives.

Finally, some accept the use of contraception as

(d) (i) Yes, because it is classed as adultery. For example, the bible and Jesus in his teachings condemn adultery. Therefore, sex outside of marriage is a sin.

As well as this, God did not intend for sex to be used for pleasure, as its sole purpose was for procreation. Consequently, sex for pleasure is going against God's plan.

Additionally, one of the christian purposes of marriage is love and faithfulness, which are sworn to be obeyed before God during the wedding ceremony. Therefore, sex outside of marriage is breaking a promise made with God.

(ii) However, some may disagree due to the media. For example, many reality tv shows and soaps portray sex before and during marriage as acceptable. Therefore, many people are influenced by this and behave the same way.

Also, because not everybody is religious. For example, they do not follow teachings that sex outside of marriage is a sin. Therefore, it may be seen as acceptable.



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Examiner Comments

b) Two developed reasons – 4 marks.

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

It is no longer frowned upon, developed with they don't worry what others think; second reason accepted due to lack of Christian authority developed with seen as normal.

c) Two developed reasons – 8 marks.

Reason 1 - lesser of the two evils developed with example of mother at risk.

Reason 2 - may already have children developed with intention of pleasure without children.

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within the level. The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS.

di) A fully developed reason, 3 marks.

Classed as adultery developed with the Bible condemns it developed with 'further that it is seen as a sin.'

dii) Two reasons one developed – 3 marks.

TV shows it as acceptable developed with many are influenced by it; people do not follow religious teaching.



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Examiner Tip

If candidates have time they should try to give as many reasons as they can in case one of their reasons is inaccurate. Candidates must refer to Christianity correctly in a (d) item to reach the threshold for 6 marks.

Question 6 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition of procreation. 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

An example of a correct answer.

(a) procreation is having children.



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Examiner Comments

Fully correct answer – therefore 2 marks.

An incorrect answer

(a) ~~procreation~~ creating a baby Pro-creation is not able to create a baby.



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Examiner Comments

Incorrect answer therefore zero marks.

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

Question 6 was an equally popular choice with question 5.

b) This was generally answered well and most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether attitudes to family life have changed and most linked their reasons to the acceptance of different families in the UK. A significant amount of responses detailed the changing attitudes towards divorce and cohabitation and did not link them to family life.

c) Many candidates showed a good knowledge of why Christians allow divorce. Some candidates gave reasons why some allow and some do not allow divorce.

Other candidates referred to changes in the law and remarriage and annulment, which were not part of the question.

d) Most candidates were able to give reasons backing their view about whether attitudes to homosexuality have not really changed in di) and reasons for an alternative view in dii). More able candidates quickly realised this was not a 'for and against' homosexuality question. They responded to the question as it was posed and they used examples to support their opinion. Many responses detailed the role of the media and celebrities to illustrate the change in attitude. Most linked their reasons to modern understanding of homosexuality or scriptural teachings about homosexuality.

Poorer candidate responses simply gave arguments for and against homosexuality and made no reference to a change in attitudes.

This is an example where the candidates scores higher on c) and d).

(b) I do think attitudes towards family life have changed in the UK firstly because sex outside marriage is now more accepted due to contraception being more available and the media showing sex outside marriage as more acceptable.

Secondly, attitudes towards family life have changed in the UK because divorce is now more common and more accepted because women ~~are~~ have more rights so ~~are~~ ^{can be} financially independent and are able to survive if they get divorced from their husbands so they're not as afraid to get a divorce.

(c) Some Christians accept divorce firstly because they believe that some marriages were never seen as true in the eyes of God because the couple might not have been truthful about their commitment to each other, so if the marriage wasn't

ever real they accept divorce.

Secondly, some christians accept divorce because they believe that if the couple are unhappy and aren't living the positive married life they should, then the most loving thing to do would be for them to get divorced and christians should do the most loving thing so accept divorce if it is ~~the~~ loving.

Thirdly, some christians accept divorce because they allow an annulment where the marriage is dissolved in the eyes of God, so if the marriage ~~is~~ no longer exists in the eyes of God then divorce is simply undoing a legal commitment so they allow it.

Finally, some christians allow divorce because if one of the marriage partners is suffering as a result of staying in the marriage when there is abuse / unfaithfulness (et.), then the marriage isn't loving ~~any more~~ and it would be best if the couple got divorced because it would end suffering which all christians should aim to do so some christians accept it in this case.

(d) (i) I don't agree that "attitudes to homosexuality haven't really changed" because in catholic christianity it now states that all forms of homophobia are wrong whereas before many christians treated homosexuals unfairly, so attitudes have therefore improved as there is less homophobia.

Secondly, attitudes to homosexuality have changed because there are now laws in place which allow homosexual couples to gain the same rights as a husband and wife through a civil marriage ceremony whereas homosexual activity used to be illegal so the law has changed attitudes.

Finally, I don't agree with the statement because homosexual sexual activity used to be not accepted but it now is seen as the same as heterosexual sexual activity when in a loving relationship.

(iii) However, some people may disagree with me and say attitudes towards homosexuality haven't changed because Catholic Christians still teach that sexual activity between the same sex is wrong which they have always taught so their attitudes haven't really changed.

Secondly, some people would agree with the statement because homophobia still exists and many people still treat homosexuals as inferior so their attitudes haven't changed and homosexuals still sometimes suffer as a result of their sexuality.

Finally, some people may disagree with me because in the Catholic church homosexual couples still can't get married like a husband and wife so this attitude hasn't changed.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

b) One brief reason – 1 mark.

A mark is given for 'divorce is more common' - the second part details how attitudes to divorce have changed, rather than attitudes to family life.

The first paragraph is about sex outside marriage and not family life.

c) 2 developed reasons – 8 marks.

Marriage never seen as true in the eyes of God developed with the example of may not be truthful to each other. Couple isn't happy and not living a positive life developed with the most loving thing to do.

Annulment is not divorce and must not be credited; however in this instance it is clear to see that a legal divorce is a necessary part of an annulment process.

di) 2 reason with one developed – 3 marks.

Catholics teach all homophobia is wrong developed with the example of previous treatment.

New laws in place.

dii) 2 reasons with one developed – 3 marks.

Catholic Church teaches sexual activity is wrong. Homophobia still exists developed with the example that some still suffer.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

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

Question 7 (a)

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

A correct example.

(a) A multi-faith society is a society in which multiple faiths can co-exist and live in harmony.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Fully correct answer – therefore 2 marks.

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 the government being able to promote community cohesion, using both the information they had been taught and their personal experience e.g. local groups and citizenship. Lower scoring responses confused government work for community cohesion with the Biblical teaching on equality.

c) Better candidates were able to answer this question about attitudes to the roles of men and women, using both the information they had been taught and their personal experience. Lower scoring responses confused changing attitudes to the roles of men and women in the church and the church teaching that supports the points made, and gained no marks.

d) Most candidates responded well to this question about why Christians work for racial harmony and were able to develop their reasons using biblical quotes. However some candidates explained what people do – or did in the case of Martin Luther King - and this did not answer the question.

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 and develop the points. 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.

This is an example of a B section that shows very limited knowledge.

(b) I think that the government can help community cohesion because ~~they are~~ ~~se~~ they are setting up ~~for~~ council groups that bring different communities together therefore they are help community cohesion.

I also ~~ge~~ agree because musses are being put in different language apart from english, therefore this helps ~~to~~ different communities communicate.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) A brief reason – 1 mark. The candidate begins with a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks).

Set up council groups to bring communities together.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Read the question carefully and ensure that the answer relates to the question set.

An example of a full marks response on c but scored low on dii.

(c) The attitudes to men and women have changed in the UK.

Firstly, in 1918 an act was made which meant that women over the age of 30 were allowed

Secondly, because women are becoming more equal in Churches by becoming Priest and getting involved more therefore they are no more & below men they are equal.

Third Thirdly, because ~~they~~ ^{women} ~~are~~ ^{women} are now voting like men thanks to the Suffragettes ~~therefore~~ therefore have to have the same rights as men.

Finally, because people have been protesting to get equal rights as each others therefore that's how they have done it.

(d) (i) I ~~aggre~~ agree because of it love ~~they~~ thy ~~neighbour~~ Neighbour which is that they should help because ~~that's~~ that's what god would of wanted.

I agree because of the Golden rule, which is ^{that} ~~it~~ that they would do the same for us so we should do it.

(ii) Someone may disagree with me because
non-religious people can help as
well not just religious people.

Someone may disagree with me because it's
their free will if they want to work
for racial harmony so nobody can make them.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

3 ways with one developed – level 4 - 8 marks.

Women are more equal.

Equal pay.

Women have proved they can do all jobs developed with the
example of factory work.

di) 2 ways with one developed – 3 marks.

Catholic social teaching teaches about racial harmony.

The Catholic Church teaches everyone should live peacefully
developed with they can share and discuss their values.

dii) A simple reason – 1 mark.

The first two points refer to faith and so therefore do not
answer the question; the mark is awarded at the third point.

Could cause conflict with other races and offend them.



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.

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

Question 8 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for religious freedom. A few candidates gained no marks as they defined religious pluralism instead.

A fully correct answer.

(a) the right to choose what ever religion you
want to be at your own choice



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Fully correct answer – therefore 2 marks.

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

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

In addition this section had a significant amount of rubric errors where candidates had mixed up the question from 7 with 8.

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion as why Catholics should promote racial harmony using mainly Biblical teaching. Lower scoring responses confused 'racial harmony' with 'multi-faith' and gained no marks.

c) This question was well answered by candidates who had been clearly taught about the problems raised by a multi-faith society; most focused on interfaith marriage, conversion and discrimination.

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 rights of women in religion very well and they were able to reason why they should and should not have equal rights.

Weaker responses were very one-sided and failed to include equal rights in religion and simply focused on equal rights in society.

This candidate scores highly on c) and d).

(b) I think Catholics should help promote racial harmony as it makes life more interesting by having many cultures around us. Secondly, racial harmony means we are all equal just as God created us, in his image and likeness.

(c) Firstly, a multi-faith society raises ~~the~~ issues for religious people because their children may convert to other religions, causing them to disown their child.

Secondly, multi-faith marriages raise issues upon which religion to raise their child in.

Thirdly, if a faith is an ethnic minority they may be picked on (discriminated).

Finally, ~~peers & family~~ for multi-faith societies may celebrate different holidays to your faith.

(d) (i) I agree that men and women should have equal rights in religion because both genders are created in God's image. Secondly, women can do just as good a job as men.

Finally, Mary was the only one to stay with Jesus on the cross while his apostles abandoned him.

(ii) However others may disagree because Jesus only had male apostles.

Secondly, the priest represents Jesus through mass & so has to be male.

Finally, St Paul said Adam was created first, so there should be more rights for men.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Two brief reasons – 2 marks.

Makes life more interesting.

Racial harmony means we are all equal.

C) Three ways with one developed – level 4 – 8 marks.

Children may convert developed with the child might be disowned.

Which religion to raise their child.

If a faith is an ethnic minority they may be discriminated against.

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

di) Three simple ways – 3 marks.

Both genders created in his image. Women can do just as good as men. Mary stayed with Jesus.

dii) Three simple ways – 3 marks.

Jesus only had male apostles. Priest represents Jesus. Adam was created first.



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.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Link their knowledge to their everyday life and the society around them.
- Must choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions.
- Indicate which question they have answered by crossing the relevant square at the top of the paper.
- Write within the allocated linage. If they take too much time on that particular question they will place themselves at a disadvantage later in the paper.
- Candidates should spend about twenty minutes per question leaving ten minutes to check through work at the end of the paper.
- Candidates are asked to write using a black pen so that clear images are reproduced.
- Learn the Edexcel glossary definitions in Appendix 4 of the specification.
- Only the candidate's point of view is credited in (b) questions. There is no point explaining other people's views in this question. The easiest way to gain full marks is for candidates to concentrate on stating their opinion and writing two separate reasons for it, each in a distinct paragraph, and to develop each of the reasons with an example or a quote.
- Candidates can gain the higher mark within the level by writing coherently.
- Candidates should ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in the (di) part and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in the (dii) rather than confusing the two halves. At least one of the reasons given in either (di) or (dii) must be explicitly religious to go beyond 3 marks.
- (d) Questions on this unit ask the candidate to refer to Roman Catholic Christianity – some responses did not have this so could not score beyond 3 marks in total.
- Specific queries can be answered through Ask the Expert which is also found on the Edexcel website.

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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