



Examiners' Report

June 2010

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS04



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Introduction

This is the first time this paper has been sat by students and overall, the standard of candidate's responses was comparable with the previous specification. Students answered the full spread of questions equally, apart from question 6, which was answered by far fewer students than question 5.

There are some administration issues which I would like to draw attention to:

Candidates should be reminded to indicate which question they have chosen by putting a cross in the correct box.

If a candidate writes more than the space in the question paper allows, they should use the extra pages at the end of the exam paper, giving a clear comment to that effect, and labelling the extra work with the question number.

There is a choice of two questions per section each containing four sub questions. Candidates attempt either all sub questions from the first question or all sub questions from the second question. Where a candidate starts answering one question and then answers part of the other question they will not be able to receive full marks for all their responses. It is good practice to put a line through the question they have not chosen.

Question 1(a)

Candidates who had learnt the specification and definitions and used them got 2 marks.

Candidates who got 1 mark for this question often did not make the distinction between having the ability to choose and the right to do.

Many students wrote that free will is having the right to do what you want which only got 1 mark.

Write your answer here:

(a) free will is having the choice to practise the religion you choose and the freedom to change religion.



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Examiner Comments

This is the definition of a different key word and therefore is 0 marks. Candidates need to make sure they provide a definition to the correct key word.



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Examiner Tip

Students should learn the key word definitions from the specification.

Question 1(b) (c) (d)

Some candidates did not link this part (b) question to the design argument.

They also found giving two developed reasons difficult. They should try to clearly separate them. For example my first reason is... my second reason is...

Many candidates did not answer the part (c) question on unanswered prayer very well, as they gave reasons why Allah did not answer all prayers.

(b) yes I do think ^{the universe is designed} most muslims would agree that Allah has designed the universe in away that will be perfect for the human race. I think it designed because first it ^{been} ~~is~~ made perfectly for humans and animals and everthing

is in its right place for the right Atmosphere. And in the Qur'an it states that Allah designed the universe

- (c) unanswered prayers could lead to disbelief in Allah because it might make the person feel unlistened to. They may feel that Allah does not care.

most Muslims would say Allah has not ^{not} answered the prayer but stopped what you asked for and given you what is better for you even if it doesn't seem so at the time. Many people that haven't had their prayer answered may feel rejected and no longer ~~believe~~ believe in the kindness or forgiveness of Allah. This could lead to them ~~at~~ not believing in any other of his attributes and no longer believing in him altogether.

(d)(i) yes I do agree most muslims would believe it best to follow a god and that it is wrong to follow anything else. As a parent you tell your kids as they grow up what it is you do and say in the religion and it would be better to explain who made these rules (God) so they understand why they are following the religion.

(ii) people could disagree if they have lived their lives without knowing if there's a god or not. They could also be an atheist and was always told there is no god or proper religion.


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Examiner Comments

The part (b) question gained 2 marks for a developed reason that the world is perfectly designed for humans and animals and that everything is in the right place, and 1 mark for a brief reason that it states this in the Qur'an.


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Examiner Tip

This student did not get marks for (d)(ii) because they did not address the question. Candidates need to make sure they answer the question set.

Question 2(a)

Most students answered this question accurately.

Write your answer here:

- (a) Prayer is a way to communicate with God. In Islam it is one of the principal beliefs.



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Examiner Comments

This is a correct response and got 2 marks. It did not need the second line, as it had already scored maximum marks.

Question 2(b) (c) (d)

Many students did not gain marks on this part (c) question because they answered the question about religious experiences by referring to religious upbringing. This is a different bullet point in the specification, which asks about miracles, numinous experiences, conversion and so on. Candidates need to be aware of the language of the specification.

- (b) I do not agree with this question statement because if you are suffering ^{it} there has to be planned to happen. Surely god would as he is the most powerful and everything is his decree.
If you are suffering that is because Allah is testing you, usually your faith.
I know this because as a Muslim we believe that life is a test. And we must do well to go to Jannah (Islamic name for heaven) or Jahannam (Islamic name for hell). All our deeds will be weighed.

I believe that whenever you are under hardship it is because Allah (Islamic name for god) is testing you or you are under punishment.

Evil is a cause of suffering.

Suffering is result of evil.

(c) A religious experience could lead to Belief in god because you have seen for yourself and there is proof to show it.

For example when the prophet Muhammad

got the revelation and went back and told his wife Khadeejah, ^{Khadeejah} ~~she~~ ^{she} did not ~~disagree~~ ^{disagree} with him, rather she ^{did believe} ~~agreed~~ ^{agreed} with him and understood him because not just because she was his wife but because she trusted him. The reason Khadeejah believed ⁱⁿ ~~he~~ was because he was a humble and honest man that never said lies.

(d) (i) I do not agree with that statement because lots of people have their opinion of how the earth was created, some may agree or disagree with each other.

If the earth was created in a big bang, something has to have caused it to happen. Which I believe to be god.

If Allah can cause things to happen he could

create the earth and other planets as well. For he is Al-Khaliq, (Al-Kha-līq) & the creator.

I don't think that science is the chosen reason for how the earth was created because there are religious reasons to and agree with some of the religious reasons.

(iii) Some may disagree with me because they would think and say that ^{mis is} Scientific truth and is supported by evidence. Religious peoples' evidence are just in books that have been changed over the past few years which means that the wording must have been changed. So how can you know whether it is true or not? And plus they are old stories from the past who knows if they are myths or not true?

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Examiner Comments

The part (c) question in the example was given 4 marks for one developed reason as the candidate talks about how the revelation led to belief in Allah.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

One way to keep focused is by making reasons really clear eg using 'my first reason is...', 'my second reason is...'.

Question 3(a)

Most students answered this question correctly.

(a) barzakh is when you are in your grave and you are waiting to be judged.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This is a correct answer and got 2 marks, although it is alternative wording to the specification definition.

Question 3(b) (c) (d)

Many candidates did not gain marks on the part (d) question as they believed that euthanasia is legal.

(b) Should everyone agree with abortion no
I totally disagree with this because some Muslims don't agree with abortion they think it means killing someone and it's a sin.
and ~~abortion~~ abortion is not allowed in some religion it is illegal to do abortion and Muslims disagree with abortion because it is ~~writing~~ ^{written} in the Qur'an "do not lay down your children's" and Muslims follow what is written in the Qur'an.

(c) Muslims believe in life after death because when we die our soul don't die they get punished or reward for what so after dead their is a life. which will punish you or reward you for your lifetime things what did you do in your lifetime is good or bad, and ~~the~~ Muslims believe in this because it is ^{written in} the Qur'an and Muslims believe in Qur'an so much and they respect Qur'an ~~is~~ and follow the Qur'an. ~~and~~

when you die ~~as~~ you get punished for you bad deeds and reward for your good deeds so ~~that's~~ why Muslims belief in life after dead. because our soul ~~will~~ will be alive

(d) (i) yes I do thing what the law for euthanaisa should be changed because euthanaisa is a very bad thing and law should be more stricker for euthanaisa. and euthanaisa is a bad thing because Allah give you the life to live not to finish it.

(iii) some people may ~~at~~ disagree with me because they will say ~~is~~ that ethunaisa is not bad for people who don't want to leave their life anymore because of their problems.

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Examiner Comments

The part (c) question was given 4 marks for one developed reason i.e. that life after death is in the Qur'an and what that belief is. There is a lot of description about what Muslims believe. To get higher marks, the candidate needed to say why.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Students should be taught to clearly address the question. The students who did well on part (c) questions used the word "because" many times. For example, Muslims believe in life after death because it gives this life meaning...

Question 4(a)

Some students gave definitions of euthanasia, such as helping someone to die.

(a) IS when you want to die and you wait someone to help you die



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Examiner Comments

This student got 1 mark as this is partially correct.

Question 4(b) (c) (d)

Students did well on this part (c) question as they clearly understood the reasons why Muslims are against euthanasia.

Some students did not understand the part (b) question and were confused by either the word media, or the word criticise.

(b) I don't think the media has the right to criticise religious beliefs because ~~it is not~~ it's what they believe in and they have evidence to show it as well. They would not like it if we criticised what they believed without looking into it actually with depth. They also have no right to change what people believe either.

(c) Most Muslims are against euthanasia because your life is a gift and is sacred.

You should try and keep your life even if it is you are in a bad situation as it is forbidden. Some Muslims are of a different opinion and would give it or take it to them if they are in a really bad situation and can no longer take it ^{so} then they take the euthanasia be it a tablet or lethal injection that will kill them peacefully but is a last result.

There are different types of euthanasia:

- * Active Euthanasia = when something is done to peacefully end a patient's life.

- * Passive euthanasia = when all life support is turned off - euthanasia

- * Voluntary = when the patient is able to make the decision to end his life or not.

- * Involuntary euthanasia = when the patient is unable to make the decision or not and is usually done by a doctor or relative.

- * Compulsory euthanasia = where groups are killed because of what they believe or follow.

- * Pro-life alliance = any action or commission done to end a patient's life.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement 'no Muslim should have an abortion' because yes to have children is a gift and blessing from Allah but if the woman is finding it hard and could not take it any more I would allow her to take the abortion because I don't want to go to the extreme where the baby or mother dies.

(iii) Muslims would not agree with me because to them children are a gift from Allah and would not be nice to throw it away. Thus abortion is forbidden and is not allowed at all, ~~the~~ the women should try to keep the baby but if not only then is abortion allowed.



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Examiner Comments

The response to this part (b) question gave three reasons but the question asks for two. Neither reason is developed, so the candidate can only get 2 marks. The part (c) question starts well, but the candidate then starts saying why some Muslims would agree with euthanasia which is not asked for, and then gives definitions of different types.



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Examiner Tip

On (b) and (d) questions, students must clearly agree or disagree. This response does this well.

Question 5(a)

Most students answered this correctly. Those who did not confused it with the word adult.

(a) What is adultery? adultery is when you are married and you ~~step~~ sleep with a other guy or woman and have sexual intercourse.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This is correct and got 2 marks.

Question 5(b) (c) (d)

Most students chose this question rather than question 6.

Candidates answering the part (b) question on family life tended to give many reasons, rather than two developed ones therefore limiting the marks they could receive to two.

(b) I do think family life is important because you are able to experience what family is like, and to have brothers and sisters. You also learn about love and care, hospitality, how to conduct yourself in front of smaller kids.

Without a family it is as if something is missing in your life.

(c) Some Muslims do not agree with contraception because they believe it is wrong and forbidden in Islam and should not be done. However some on the other hand believe it is o.k because you should be able to know that your child ^{will} might come out with the illness because it is highly likely and strong. So I rather than let the baby live a life of hardship better just to ~~get~~ remove it. Those who don't it is probably because children are a gift from god and is something that should be cherished. Even though the baby might come out with a bad illness, that is just Allah's decree, and that this life is supposed to be a test to everyone.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement Muslims should never get divorced because being divorced is better than living the rest of your life in a unhappy marriage, because all you will do is argue although you should try to keep it because marriage is a nice thing that can happen.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me because marriage is a gift and your family tree will grow and it also spreads Islam. To throw it away would not be good because you should try to keep it any means necessary. Only if it comes up to the extreme such as abuse only then is it allowed.

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Examiner Comments

This response to the part (d) question did not gain more marks because it did not really address the issue of whether Muslims should get divorced. Students who answered this question well talked about Islam permitting divorce on the one hand, whilst it also being the most detested thing.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Candidates should write 2 developed reasons for the part (b) questions.

Question 6(a)

Candidates who answered this question mainly used the specification definition.

(a) Creating a new life.

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Examiner Comments

This is a correct answer and got 2 marks.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the specification definitions.

Question 6(b) (c) (d)

This question was not popular, although those who answered it did it well.

(b) homosexuality have increased for the past 30 years.

• They are accepted much more easily and are not looked down on. However the prophet muhammed clearly mentioned in the Quran that a legal marriage can only happen

between a man and a woman

• They are also ~~given~~ ^{the same} given rights which are ^{given} ~~equal~~ to a couple (man and a woman).

Ceremonies are held like a civil partnership

specially for them. I personally think that having a commitment with someone is about being faithful and having children. whereas

being homosexual you can't have ~~any~~ ^{special} kids unless you have a ^{treatment}.

Muslims are against sex outside marriage!

* The Quran and hadiths clearly mention that adultery is not allowed. and the Quran is the words of Allah, so as a muslim, it is absolute to obey the order.

* By being a promiscuity person and never settling ~~down~~ down, is more likely for you to ~~be~~

• have Sexual transmitted diseases.

Also, if you had a child and ~~you~~ went ~~to~~ in many relationships after that you won't be able to know who your child's father is.

* The Shariah law has condemned adultery it also mentions in the Shariah law that ~~that~~ boys and girls should be separated at the age of puberty.

* Being a married parent and committing adultery breaks down the family and trust.

* Allah has also ~~mentioned~~ that described in the Quran 'whoever commits ~~an~~ adultery will have a punishment awaiting them' (Surah 17)

(d) (i) I disagree because...

* Instead of the couples living miserably, they can put an end to the unworking relationship and get a divorce and try to live a more comfortable life that will help both of them.

* If both parties of the couples could not handle the situation, they could try to have a divorce and try ~~to~~ to move on.

(ii) Some may disagree with me because...

* ~~At the~~ In the Sight of Allah the worst act he dislikes is divorce. As a muslim we should try and avoid that act.

* ^{is} ~~It~~ a duty of a muslim ~~to~~ to find a ~~to~~ suitable ~~partner~~ partner to be committed for life.

* the family unit would not be stable if there would be a divorce, leading the children to have an insecure home, which is not stable.



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Examiner Comments

In this example the part (b) question has two brief reasons - they are more accepted and that they are given the same rights. The student has written a lot but has not really addressed the question. The answer to the part (d) question gets 0 as this candidate has not followed instructions regarding answering one whole question and has answered 5(d).



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should be encouraged to put a line through the question they are not answering.

Question 7(a)

Some students confused ethnicity with religion when answering this question.

(a) An ethnic minority is a small amount of people of a certain race in an area that is not the same race as them.



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Examiner Comments

This is a correct answer and got 2 marks.

Question 7(b) (c) (d)

Overall this section was the lowest scoring.

Students sometimes confused faith and ethnicity.

The question on why some Muslims work to support asylum seekers/immigrant workers in the UK is a new question for this specification and students did not answer it well. Some students misunderstood and answered why immigrants came to the UK and some described the work done.

(b) There are benefits because you will get to learn about different religions, you will work together with different races, you might be able to convert someone into your religion or they might convert you because they believe your religion is right. People might start to be less racist when they get to know because you live together. It will improve racism, and world peace.

(c) Some muslims help asylum seekers and immigrant because they want different religions to live together. Muslims must always be helpful

to each other, helping someone is good. If everyone has free will then they can help if they want. Helping other people is part of being a muslim. They want different religions to live together and get along. It makes the world more peaceful. Maybe some muslims were immigrants themselves so they know how it feels. It might improve racism.

(d) (i) I don't agree because not everyone follow their religion, religious. People are racist as well. Some people don't care what religion you are or what colour you are they be racist anyway.

(iii) Some People may disagree with me because if everyone believed in ~~god~~ god / Allah they would be less racist, they won't be racist to people who are the same religion as them, people will get along well if there from the same religion. It's part of a religion not to be racist. Racism is seen as bad in most religion. ~~like in Islam~~

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Examiner Comments

On the part (b) question, this student has given one brief reason (that you can learn about other religions) and one developed reason about conversion. The response to the part (c) question gets 3 marks for two brief reasons (that Muslims should help others, and because some Muslims may have been immigrants themselves)

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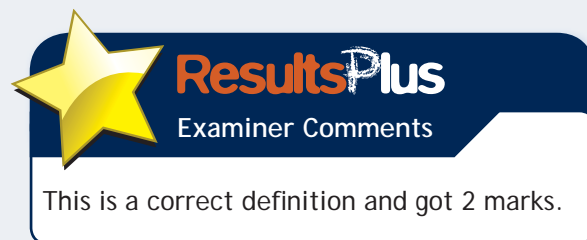
Examiner Tip

The easiest way to answer part (d) questions is to have 3 reasons for, and 3 reasons against the argument one of which must refer to Islam.

Question 8(a)

Some students defined other key words but many students answered this correctly.

(a) Religious pluralism is believing that every religion has an equal right in coexist.



Question 8(b) (c) (d)

Students answered the part (b) question in a variety of ways, some talking about how the roles of Muslim men and women have changed in the UK. Some students defined the roles but did not give reasons.

(b) I think the roles of women and men have changed in the UK because now women are going to work and men are working or staying at home rather than before where women stayed at home.

In the UK the women now have the same rights as the men do like now they are allowed to vote but before they weren't.

(c) Muslims should help to promote racial harmony because in Islam you should be ~~of~~ pleasant to all people no matter race you are.

In the Quran it says that Black are no better than white and white are no better than black people. This shows that in Islam everybody is the same and has the same right.

No ~~of~~ matter what race you are everybody is equal and are the same and believe the same. Muslims encourage racial harmony because you should be pleasant to all people as there is no difference on the day of judgement they will not be judged on their race but their deeds.

(d) (i) I agree with this because the government don't have enough power to control the people and because they are the ones we listen to they must not give the right idea to people and can cause problems.

If people wanted to do have community cohesion then they will be open to it, but they don't, for years the government have tried for people to have community cohesion and ~~has~~ have not ~~successful~~ -

(ii) ~~People~~ People might ~~not~~ disagree with this statement because they believe that the government has enough power to make this happen.

They want to believe that the government ~~can~~ can make a difference and everybody wants community cohesion.

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Examiner Comments

The response to this part (c) question gives three clear points - it gives a teaching from the Qur'an, it says whatever the race, humans are all equal, and it talks about there being no difference on Judgement Day. The part (d) question can not get more than 3 marks as it does not refer to Islam.

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Examiner Tip

All (d) questions must refer to Islam if students are to access the higher marks.

Grade Boundaries:

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw boundary mark	80	66	56	46	36	29	22	15	8	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	0

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