

Examiners' Report

June 2015

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS09 01

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June 2015

Publications Code UG042482

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Introduction

This specification for Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies is now very well established.

A wide variety of centres entered candidates for this unit: entries included centres from different Christian denominational schools and non-faith schools. It was evident that candidates themselves came from a wide variety of faith backgrounds and none.

Many candidates engaged well with exploring the meaning, place and importance of Christian beliefs and practices in society today.

Once again, there was evidence that the candidates had been well prepared by their centres. It was clear that many centres had taken the advice given in previous *Results Plus* reports.

Please note: In the exemplar clips, candidates' words may or may not be quoted *verbatim*. Words in inverted commas indicate the essential content of the response.

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

Question (Q) 1 (a)(b)(c)(d) had sections specifically concerned with:

- the creeds
- how love of others is expressed in the life of a religious community
- how the love of God affects Christians' lives
- the meaning and importance for Christians of believing that Jesus is the Son of God

(a) This asked for the meaning of the Creeds. To gain full marks answers needed either to define the term in line with the glossary definition, or name the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

(b) This asked candidates to consider the purpose of a religious community. It was evident that a significant number of candidates still did not appear to understand that a religious community within the specification refers to monastic communities, and not a local church or Christian community.

Marks were awarded to all answers that could have been referring to a religious community. However, candidates often did not gain the second mark for developing the reason because their development was not linked with a religious community.

(c) This asked how love of God can affect a Christian's life. Overall, it was well answered with candidates giving a wide variety of ways including: worshipping, being baptised and confirmed, joining a religious community, and following the teachings of the Bible.

A number of candidates interpreted the question as to how God's love could affect a Christian and so found it harder to achieve the higher levels.

(d) This asked if everyone should believe that Jesus is God's Son. The vast majority of candidates engaged well with this question and there was some excellent reasoning on both sides of the argument. It was good to see that candidates considered the different views within Christianity on this topic and did not only contrast it with why people do not believe that Jesus was God's Son.

This is an example of a candidate who gives good responses in parts (a), (b) and (c).

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) is of a high standard because there is effective control and a consistent level of accuracy.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 1 ☒ Question 2 ☐

Write your answer here:

(a) Creeds are statements of Christian beliefs.

(b) Yes, I do think that the purpose of a religious community is to love others, because God said that this was the second most important teaching, after loving showing love of God. ~~that~~ People in a religious community will do this by caring for others, supporting them and by doing this are showing love of God. In the Bible, ~~the~~ it is also said to "love thy neighbour" and this is the Golden Rule and Christians in a religious community will do this to demonstrate their love of God.

(c) Love of God can affect a Christian's life, because they will try to please God and implement daily religious teachings in their everyday lives. For example, they may pray regularly to God and say prayers of

thanks and praise, to show their appreciation to God, and they may even ask for forgiveness in their prayers. Prayer is an attempt to contact God usually through words.

Secondly, a Christian might choose to have a vocational job, such as being a teacher, nun, priest or a Samaritan, so that they can help others. This is because Christians believe it is important to 'love thy neighbour'.

Thirdly, Christians may get baptised, and this removes the original sin that was as a result of Adam and Eve disobeying God in the Garden of Eden. This shows that they have chosen to turn away from sin. Christians may also choose to get confirmed and this is when you are old enough to renew your promises/vows made for you in infant baptise. It is the person's conscious decision and demonstrates their commitment and love of God.

Lastly, Christians may take communion, and this is ~~when~~ when you take the bread and the wine. It recognises that you are celebrating and thanking Jesus for his sacrifice (crucifixion which allows forgiveness of sins).

(a) This is a fully correct answer giving the glossary definition

2 marks

(b) The candidate offers a personal view and gives one developed reason and one other reason:

- Reason 1 – 'second most important commandment' developed by 'after love of God'
- Reason 2 – reference to 'love your neighbour'

Here the candidate missed the opportunity to develop their reason by giving an example of how a religious community shows 'love your neighbour'.

3 marks

The candidate is awarded Level 4 because they give one developed way and two other ways. The ways were:

- implementing teachings in daily life
- pray regularly to God
- 'choice of job' developed by referring to the 'vocation of helping others'

The ways of baptism, confirmation and communion are correct but the candidate has already gained full marks.

(c) 8 marks

(d)(i) 3 marks

(d)(ii) 3 marks

SPaG 4 marks

Total = 23 marks

**ResultsPlus**
Examiner Tip

Candidates are encouraged to develop their answers by giving relevant examples or making links with Christian beliefs and teachings that are relevant to the question.

This candidate gains full marks for both parts of the (d) question.

(d)(i) I agree everyone should believe Jesus is God's son because at Jesus' baptism, God spoke "This is my son with whom I am well pleased." Secondly, everyone should believe Jesus is God's son because Jesus is the only human who is fully human yet fully divine. Thirdly, Jesus said "There are many rooms in my father's house" He always referred to God as "Father".

(ii) However some may disagree with me because, when he was in the temple Jesus got angry like a normal human and threw over some stalls. Secondly, Jesus didn't perform any miracles or have any ministry until he was ~~thirty~~ thirty. Finally, some may not believe Jesus is God's son because God is Jesus and Jesus is God and that means ~~both~~ both are one so there cannot be a father or a son.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(a) 2 marks

(b) 2 marks

(c) 8 marks

(d)(i) The candidate shows good evaluation skills by giving reasons for their view. These are rooted in a clear understanding of the issue and make good use of the candidate's knowledge of Jesus' life and teachings.

3 marks

(d)(ii) Equally, they consider the other side of the argument by referring to Jesus' humanity and the belief in God's unity, to develop the arguments.

3 marks

SPaG 4 marks

Total = 22 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

In (d) questions candidates are advised to use the knowledge and understanding they have gained from their studies to help to develop their arguments rather than fall back on generalised reasons such as 'it is taught in the Bible'.

These reasons are often not creditworthy because they are not linked with the question.

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

Q2 (a)(b)(c)(d) had sections specifically concerned with:

- the catechism
- the importance for Christians of believing in God as Father
- how the love of God is expressed in the life of a religious community
- the meaning and importance for Christians of believing in the Holy Spirit

(a) This asked for the meaning of the Catechism. To gain full marks answers needed to make it clear that this is the teachings, is Catholic, or of the Church. Those candidates that defined it only as religious teachings were only given one mark.

(b) In this question, candidates were asked to consider if Christians should call God 'Father'. Most candidates were able to offer two reasons, but some candidates tried to develop their answer by repeating the reason already given. 'Development' gives new information that is linked with the reason, usually through an example or reference to a teaching, a practice or an event.

Most candidates agreed, and cited that Jesus taught his followers to call God 'Father'. It shows that people can have a personal relationship with God, as with an Earthly father.

The other side of the argument was equally valid and there were some interesting responses. For example, some candidates commented that it is not appropriate to link God with the term 'father' because God is without gender and some earthly fathers are not good.

(c) This asked how the love of God is shown in the life of a religious community. The candidates who named a religious community - Taize being the most popular example - often achieved full marks. Although this was not required, it appeared to help focus the candidates on giving relevant ways.

It was disappointing to note that a significant number of candidates who achieved high marks in other (c) questions on the paper did not do so on this question. They gave ways in which all Christians show love of God, for example, by going to church on a Sunday, being confirmed and reading the Bible.

The specification has two different bullet points; one refers to how the love of God is shown in a religious community and the other to how a Christian church shows love of God. It advises that candidates are aware of the differences between the two different parts of the specification.

(d) This asked if the Holy Spirit is active in the world. The vast majority of candidates engaged well with this question, showing that they understood the significance and importance of the Holy Spirit within Christianity.

Many candidates gave relevant examples of things that could show the presence of the Holy Spirit such as charismatic worship, miracles and healings today, the baptism of Jesus, and Pentecost.

On the other side of the argument, the reasons given were more varied, including: suffering in the world prevents people believing, people cannot see the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit was only active during Jesus' life.

This candidate shows a good level of understanding and has used their knowledge well, to respond to the different parts of the question.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 1 ☒

Question 2 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) The teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

(b) I think that Christians should refer to God as the father because he is the Creator of ~~our~~ our world and our provider, we are his children. Also, God has ~~fatherly~~ created us to ~~be~~ have the free will of making mistakes so we can learn from them just as God punishes us for doing wrong. This is part of the Trinity, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

(c) In a religious community such as Taizé in the south of France it is a monastic community with monks. The monks live by the rules which is chastity, obedience and charity, they show their love through being celibate, because a life without sexual activity and no ~~emotional~~ family ties can show ~~more~~ more devotion to God. Also, monks lead congregations for anyone who wishes to visit, they person teachings from the Bible and follow the word of God which is obedience. Monks used to run hospitals and schools for children to enrich the community and pass on the faith of God. Daily services are also usually part of a monks life as

they pray to God to 'show their love and thankfulness to him.

(d) (i) I agree that the Holy Spirit is active in this world because ^{catholics} Christians still believe in the Virgin Birth but Protestants believe that ~~many~~ the Holy Spirit entered Jesus at conception. Furthermore, many believe about the Incarnation that God came to Earth as the form of a human, which is Jesus. It is one of the most important beliefs for Christians as Jesus said to his Disciples "I will always be with you" which meant that the Holy Spirit will guide Christian lives.

(ii) Some may disagree as God can be seen as one which is the Unity so there is no way he can be the Son, Father and Holy Spirit. Many others follow monotheism which is the firm ^{belief} ~~believe~~ in only one God. Also, some people are Atheists and do not follow a religion or have a faith so the Holy Spirit wouldn't be active anyway.

(a) A fully correct answer

2 marks

(b) Two developed reasons

Reason 1 – 'He is the creator' developed by 'we are His children'

Reason 2 – 'part of the Trinity' developed by referring to the parts of the Trinity

4 marks

(c) One fully developed way and one other way

It is clear that the candidate is referring to a religious community because they refer to Taize.

The first way they give is 'living by the rules' developed by referring to the evangelical counsels of 'chastity and obedience' further developed by reference to 'no family ties so they can be devoted to God'

Level 4

8 marks

(d)(i) Three brief reasons

- 'through the Virgin Birth'
- 'reference to the incarnation'
- 'Jesus said "I will always be with you"' developed by 'the Holy spirit guiding Christians' but the candidate has already received full marks for this part of the question

3 marks

(d)(ii) Two simple reasons

- 'because God is Unity'

The sentence about monotheism is not linked with the question about the Holy Spirit being active in the world, so is not creditworthy.

- 'an atheist does not follow the faith so would not believe this' is a valid response because the question is not asking if Christians should believe it, and it is linked directly with the question.

2 marks

SPaG - This is an intermediate performance - there is general control of meaning and there is a considerable level of accuracy in spelling and grammar, therefore it is the higher mark.

3 marks

Total = 22 marks



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Examiner Tip

All reasons in either (d)(i) or (d)(ii) need to link directly with the statement given at the start of the question.

Question 3 (a)

Q3 was the least popular in this section on Community and Tradition.

Q3 (a)(b)(c)(d) had sections specifically concerned with:

- the laity
- why Christians have different attitudes to the role and importance of the Virgin Mary
- the meaning of Protestant beliefs about the authority of the Church and their importance for Protestant Christians
- why the Bible has authority and its importance for Christians

(a) This question required the candidates to state who 'the laity' were. Most gained full marks by referring to them as the non-ordained members of the Church. Candidates tended to know and gain the full marks. Alternatively, they defined another key term, or left it blank and therefore could not be awarded any marks.

An example of a fully correct answer for part (a)

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 3 ☒ Question 4 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) The people who go to church but are not priests or bishops.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate has given a correct answer and is awarded full marks.

It is clear that they have paraphrased the glossary definition to help them learn and use the key term.

2 marks

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

(b) In this question, candidates were asked to consider if the Virgin Mary is important for all Christians.

There were some very good answers showing that the candidates were fully aware of the different views about the Virgin Mary.

Those candidates who agreed referred to her as being the mother of Jesus and being a good role model. Those who disagreed tended to make the point that she is only important to Catholics.

There were increasing numbers of candidates who said that they were unsure. Whilst this was a valid way to answer the question, such candidates needed to ensure that it was a personal response. Answers that started 'some Christians' or 'Catholics do not' often went on to give a personal response and so could not gain any marks on this part of the question.

(c) This question required candidates to explain why some Protestants do not believe the Church has authority.

Most answers focussed only on the Bible having authority for Protestants. Candidates often gave a fully developed or comprehensive reason around this point. Some made other valid points about the Church making mistakes in the past, or faith being about a personal relationship with God, and some referred to the hierarchy in the Church not showing equality.

(d) This question required candidates to consider whether or not all Christians should obey the Bible.

Most candidates were able to give both sides of the argument. Weaker answers tended to ignore the reference to Christians and gave reasons such as 'they do not believe in God' and then went on to give reasons why people might not believe in God and hence the Bible.

The best answers considered the different Christian responses to the authority of the Bible and made reference to it being the Word of God, being inspired by the Holy Spirit, or that it was written by humans.

An equally valid approach was to consider the value of the teachings in the Bible for Christians today. Many candidates made reference to the teachings of Jesus being in the Bible and gave relevant examples to develop their points.

On the other side of the argument, candidates gave interesting and relevant examples of teachings they considered outdated.

This is an example of how a candidate has given developed reasons in all parts of the question.

(b) Yes as she is the mother of Jesus, therefore she is perfect in God's eyes and was born without sin, she was the ideal mother to Jesus, and we should all be looking up to her as being parents.

She is seen as the door to heaven therefore you must also please her by living like she did.

(c) Protestants don't believe the church has authority as it has not been directly from Jesus through apostolic ~~tradition~~ ^{Succession}, therefore Jesus

doesn't have direct authority over them.

Apostolic ^{tradition} ~~succession~~ gives the bible more authority as that comes directly from the apostles who were appointed by Jesus, whereas the Church doesn't have a connection with Jesus.

The bible tells us how to live a good Christian life directly from what Jesus said and gives example from what Jesus did, whereas the Church just gives guidance

and tells you to interpret the bible yourself.

Most vicar, bishop etc. say different things about the bible and interpret it in different ways, therefore no one is certain what it means. Unlike Catholics which it is interpreted by the Pope therefore only 1 definite answer.

(d) (i) Yes as it is the ^{direct} word of God therefore should be followed directly as they are God's wishes.

The bible tells you how to ~~live~~ live a good Christian ~~also~~ so you can have eternal life, disobeying the bible doesn't allow you to have eternal life and will be punished.

It contains the 10 commandments, they are not requests or suggestions, disobeying the commandment is disobeying God.

(ii) People may disagree as the bible condemns euthanasia, however it could be the most loving thing to do.

The Pope has more authority, so should obey the Pope before obeying the bible as the Pope has been direct authority.

from Jesus and the bible is only what the apostles said

But the bible could be about the culture at that time and not what is right and wrong, therefore it is opinions not what God's wants or says.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) Two developed reasons

The personal opinion is implied through the word 'yes' at the start of the question.

- Reason 1 - 'mother of Jesus' developed by 'was the ideal mother'
- Reason 2 - 'Mary is the door to heaven' developed by 'therefore please her and live like her'

4 marks

(c) Two developed reasons

- There is a developed reason about the importance of the Bible because there is a direct link with Jesus. The answer is linked with the question because it is clear that the candidate is making a comparison with the Church.
- 'the Bible gives examples for what Jesus would do' developed by 'but the Church needs to interpret this so does not have the same authority'

Level 4

8 marks

(d)(i) one developed reason and one simple reason

- 'the Bible is the direct word of God'
- 'tells you how to lead a good life' developed by 'therefore receive eternal life'

A further valid point is made but the candidate has now received full marks for this question.

3 marks

(d)(ii) two simple reasons and one developed reason

- gives an example of an issue today where the Bible is not helpful
- 'Pope has more authority'
- 'the Bible is opinion' developed by 'influenced by the culture at the time'

3 marks

Total = 18 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Be clear about the different Christian views on such areas as the authority of the Church and the Bible, and use them to develop answers to the questions set.

Question 4 (a)

Q4 was popular amongst the candidates with most of them favouring this question.

Q4 (a)(b)(c)(d) had sections specifically concerned with:

- celibacy
- the meaning and importance for Christians of the Church being a means to salvation
- why the Bible has importance for Christians
- the importance of the Pope in the Roman Catholic Church

(a) This question required candidates to define the term *celibacy*.

Most were able to do this and gave a correct answer. They referred to living without engaging in sexual activity, or abstaining from sex, or not living a married life.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 3 ☒

Question 4 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) Celibacy is where the person does not engage in any sexual activity and does not marry.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

An example of a fully correct answer
2 marks

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 3 ☒

Question 4 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) Celibacy is where you don't take part in sexual activity and you don't marry.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Once again, the candidate has given a fully correct answer: 'not taking part in sexual activity'.

2 marks

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

(b) In this question candidates were asked to consider whether or not belonging to the Church was the only way to be saved from sin. This year, candidates appeared better prepared for this part of the specification than in the past, hence there were some thoughtful answers.

As expected, many candidates from Catholic centres referred to the Church being needed for the sacraments. Those that disagreed often referred to salvation being found through studying the Bible, through the power of the Holy Spirit, or leading a good Christian life.

Both approaches produced some good answers. However, those candidates that did not recognise the difference between 'a church' as a place of worship and 'the Church' found it hard to develop their reason or to give a second reason and tended to focus on 'you can worship anywhere'.

(c) This question required candidates to explain why the Bible is important for Christians. Nearly all candidates were able to offer creditworthy answers to this question. As expected, most focussed on the Bible being the direct word of God or the importance of teachings it contains, eg the teachings from Jesus or the Ten Commandments.

There were some excellent answers that explored the different attitudes to the authority of the Bible: many of these answers gained Level 4 because they focussed on the different views about its importance within Christianity.

(d) This question required candidates to consider whether or not all Christians need a Pope. Most candidates were able to give both sides of the argument. Weaker answers tended to ignore the reference to Christians and gave reasons that people do not need a Pope, eg because they are not Christians.

The higher level answers used their knowledge and understanding of Apostolic Succession to develop their reasoning. Equally, some candidates used their knowledge about the roles of a priest, bishop and the Pope further to develop their responses.

Less able candidates still confused the role of the Pope and the priest and stated that a Pope is needed to administer the sacraments within their church.

On the other side of the argument, it was refreshing to see that reference was made to other churches also having a hierarchy, such as the Archbishop of Canterbury, so all Christians do not need a Pope.

In addition, it was good to see that candidates were considering other denominational views on this topic; some specific reference was made to denominations such as the Quakers who believe that clergy in any form is unnecessary.

This candidate is awarded full marks for these answers.

This response shows how candidates can develop their answers by using their wider knowledge and understanding of the specification.

Read the questions carefully: if it says a church with a small c it is referring to the church as a building. If it says the Church with a capital C it means the community of Christians.

It may be more helpful in relationship to this section of the specification to think about the Church as a way a group of Christians is organised and structured with a particular set of beliefs, ways of worshipping and with certain Church leaders, priests and ministers.

(b) ~~I do think the Church is the only way to be saved from sin. This is because some people are not physically able to get to~~
I do think the Church is the only way to be saved from sin because the Church provide s baptism's and confirmation where people receive salvation. The Church teaching are a mean to faith and salvation, this is because they are interpreted by the Pope. The pope is the mesource of faith and salvation ~~thru~~ because of Apotolic succession.

(c) The bible is important for Christian, because it records the life and death of Jesus. This is important because Christians are led by his example and feel it is important to know and understand his life.

The bible also provide teachings which people can ~~use in it~~ learn and use them in their daily life. For example the Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches Christian to always help those in need regardless of race or religion.

The bible is important for Christians because they believe it is the direct word of God. Therefore by following the bible Christians will be doing God's will and will be rewarded (as shown in the parable of the sheep and the goats).

The bible records the early church and ~~also~~ the lives of the early priests. This is important because it is part of Christian history.

(d) (i) "All Christians need a Pope"

I agree with this because the pope is the only person who can interpret the faith of the bible due to apostolic succession. Apostolic succession means that the pope can be traced back all the way to Peter, whom Jesus appointed, proving that Jesus wants Christians to have a Pope. Christians are led by Jesus' example. Jesus followed the demands of God therefore, all Christians, it is important that we ~~do~~ have a leader and follow his deeds, this leader is our pope. The pope is inspired by the Holy Spirit, therefore he is important for Christians because he will follow God's will.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they might believe that the bible should be interpreted by each individual, therefore there is no need for a pope. Also, they may not believe in apostolic tradition or succession in which case the pope wouldn't be special. They may

also argue that faith and salvation do not come from the Pope and his teachings. Faith and salvation comes from the faith in the ~~poor~~ death and resurrection of Jesus.



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Examiner Comments

(b) Two developed reasons

Reason 1 – 'church is where people receive salvation' developed by the example of 'baptism/confirmation'

Reason 2 - 'the Church is a means to faith and salvation' developed by the link with Apostolic Succession

4 marks

(c) Two developed reasons and two simple reasons

- 'it records the life and death of Jesus'
- 'contains teachings that can be used in daily life' developed by the example of 'the Good Samaritan'
- 'it is the word of God' is developed but the candidate has now received full marks
- the last reason about the history of the Early Church is also valid

Level 4

8 marks

(d)(i) One fully developed reason to achieve full marks

- 'Pope the only person who can interpret the faith and the Bible' developed by reference to 'Apostolic Succession', further developed by link to 'Peter and Jesus'

3 marks

(d)(ii) Three simple reasons

- 'the Bible is interpreted by individuals'
- 'people don't believe in Apostolic Succession'
- 'faith and salvation come through the death and resurrection of Jesus not the Pope'

3 marks

Total = 18 marks



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Examiner Tip

church with a small c means the building

Church with a capital C means the people who are involved

Question 5 (a)

Q5 (a)(b)(c)(d) had sections specifically concerned with:

- Advent
- the importance of Lent
- why nonconformist churches have certain features
- the importance of the Mass for Roman Catholics

The (a) question required the candidates to state what Advent is. Most gained full marks by referring to it as being a time of preparation for Christmas. Usually, candidates tended to know and gain the full marks but those who referred to it as the time leading up to Jesus' birth did not gain any marks.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: **Question 5** ☒

Question 6 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) Advent is the time of preparation leading up to Christmas.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate includes both elements required for the 2 marks: the link with Christmas and the time of preparation.
2 marks

When revising, it is recommended that the candidates are aware of the distinctive nature of each of the Christian festivals or key points in the liturgical calendar and how they link together. This may prevent candidates from confusing one with another - for example Lent and Advent.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 5 ☒ Question 6 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) Advent is the time leading up to Christmas.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This answer is also awarded 2 marks because the idea of time leading up to Christmas implies preparation for Christmas.

2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Be clear about the main events, beliefs and practices associated with each of the key celebrations in the specification, to avoid confusion in the examination.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 5 ☒ Question 6 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) The lead up to Easter day.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Here is an example of a candidate who confuses Lent and Advent.

0 marks

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

(b) In this question, candidates were asked to consider if Lent is an important time of year. Some candidates were quick to respond to a question that had been asked in the past: if Lent is **the most** important time. As a result, some candidates did not answer the question because they made little or no reference to Lent in their answers and only made reference to other festivals.

Many candidates made reference to Lent recalling the time Jesus was tempted, it being a good preparation for Easter, or that it is a time for personal reflection and thinking of others. It was pleasing to note that candidates often developed their answer by making reference to the Lenten practices of fasting, giving to charity and study groups.

(c) This question required candidates to explain why the non-conformist churches have certain features. This was a less well-answered question compared with other (c) questions, for two main reasons.

Firstly, the term 'feature' in the specification refers to an aspect /detail of the building, not to differences in worship. Some candidates still wrote about differences in worship without linking them with the building.

Secondly, some candidates did not know what the term *non-conformist* meant and described a Catholic church.

The best answers gave a feature and then explained its significance for that particular denomination, so that a clear link was made between the feature and beliefs.

(d) This question required candidates to consider whether or not all Catholics should go to Mass every Sunday.

Most candidates were able to give both sides of the argument. Some candidates seemed to ignore the wording of the question and focussed on why people do not go to church. Often, this resulted in them using the predictable reason 'as they do not believe in God', which was not a valid response to this question.

As expected, those supporting the statement focussed on the importance of receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist or that it was a way to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Those candidates not supporting the argument referred to those people who are unable to attend (due to work/illness), or that people will be judged on their good works, or that they may attend at other times of the week.

It is helpful to have a format to help candidates structure their responses.

In (b) and (d)(i) the easiest way is to start: *I think, I agree or I disagree* with the stem of the question. This helps candidates to focus on the question set.

When introducing a new idea/reason candidates may use such phrases as *secondly, also, in addition*. There are examples of this in this candidate's answers.

(b) I think Lent is an important time of year because it ~~to~~ remembers the forty 40 days and ~~an~~ nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness. That helps us remember the sacrifices he made for us.

Also it is a preparation time to get ready for Easter so that we can enjoy the holiday and also ~~rememb~~ remember the death and resurrection of Jesus and the sacrifices he made.

(c) Nonconformist churches have certain features ~~because Jesus said~~ like the fact that the churches have plain walls and windows because they might distract people from the worship and

teachings, if they were fancy.

In addition Jesus and the Bible said that it didn't matter ~~was~~ what kind of building people worshiped in, ~~it was the way~~ what mattered, ~~where~~ the worship and teachings. Also the churches usually have moveable chairs so they can move ~~th~~ them for their charismatic worship which usually involves dancing and singing in ~~for~~ tongues.

There is usually no altar but instead ~~their~~ ^{there}

might be a pupil because they consider the teachings more important than everything else.

(d) (i) I think all Catholics should go to Mass every Sunday because Jesus ~~has~~ told us to do it in remembrance of him so we should do it often.

It is one of the sacraments so we can get closer to God when we take it.

In addition it shows that we love and respect God when we take it as it shows we set Sunday apart ~~from~~ from other days.

(ii) Some people would disagree because they may be too sick or have work to take to Mass this means they would miss ~~it~~ the service.

Also ~~a~~ some may ~~feel~~ feel it does not need to be taken every Sunday because it might get boring and people might stop going.

In addition some people might not want to take Mass as it doesn't seem ~~neess~~ necessary for Catholics, ~~they could do it on~~

(b) Two developed reasons

- Reason 1- 'remembers Jesus' time in the wilderness' developed by 'the sacrifice He made for us'
- Reason 2 – 'preparation for Easter' developed by 'that remembers Jesus' death and resurrection'

4 marks

(c) Two reasons and one developed reason

- 'plain walls (the feature) so not distracted from worship'
- moveable seats (the feature) linked to charismatic worship developed by examples of dancing and singing in tongues
- 'no altar but a pulpit' (the feature) because they 'consider the teachings more important'

Level 4

8 marks

(d)(i) One developed reason and one simple reason

- Jesus said to do it in 'remembrance of him'
- 'it is a sacrament' developed by 'so we can get closer to God'

The candidate goes on to to give another valid reason but has now achieved full marks for this section

3 marks

(d)(ii) Two simple reasons

- 'may be too sick'
- 'Not every week as it might get boring and you stop going'

The final reason given is not valid because it does not say why it is not necessary.

2 marks

Total = 17 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Remember to use an appropriate structure for each part of the question.

Question 6 (a)

Q6 was marginally more popular in this section on *Worship and Celebration*.

Q6 (a)(b)(c)(d) had sections specifically concerned with:

- Holy Week
- the importance of Easter
- the meaning and importance of the Eucharist in other Christian Traditions
- the importance for some Christians of Confirmation

The (a) question required the candidates to state what Holy Week is. Most gained full marks by referring to it as being the week before Easter. Candidates tended to know this and gained full marks. Some gave only one of the days of Holy Week and so only gained one mark.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: **Question 5** ☒ **Question 6** ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) The week leading up to Easter Sunday, preparing preparing us for Jesus' rise from the dead.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate gains full marks for 'the week leading up to Easter Sunday'.

2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates need to be clear about the difference between Holy Week, Easter and Good Friday.

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

(b) In this question, candidates were asked to consider if Easter Sunday was the most important day of the year for Christians. Whilst there were fewer candidates who confused the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, there was still a significant number that did.

The best answers for those who agreed, focussed on the point that it proved Jesus' divinity and showed that eternal life is possible.

The candidates who did not agree were more successful when they referred to Jesus' death being more significant for Christians because it freed people from sin.

Some candidates argued that Christmas was more important. This was a valid response, but they seemed to find it difficult to go beyond Christmas being a celebration of Jesus' birth and not stating why this is more important than Easter Sunday.

(c) This question required candidates to explain the meaning of the Eucharist for Christians who were not Roman Catholics.

There was a wide variety of responses from candidates to this question. Some candidates either misread the question or did not know the differences and wrote about the Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church.

The best answers named the denomination about which they were writing and went on to identify correctly what the Eucharist meant to different groups of Christians.

It was good to see candidates use a wide range of specialist terms to help them develop their answers eg *commemoration* and *real presence*.

(d) This question required candidates to consider whether or not all Christians should be confirmed.

Most candidates were able to give both sides of the argument. Some candidates seemed to ignore the wording of the question and focussed on why parents should not bring up their children within a faith or not have them baptised.

There were some excellent answers in support of the statement, showing that candidates understood the significance of confirmation for many Christians. The more successful answers that disagreed focussed on the fact that some Christians practise adult baptism or that it is unnecessary because infant baptism is all that is required.

This candidate gained full marks. They have made good use of specialist terms in their answers.

(b) I am unsure because arguably Easter Sunday could be viewed as the most important day because it is celebrating the event ^{of resurrection, which} is key to every Christian because it gives ~~top~~ us hope that we will also have eternal life like Jesus.

However, there are other equally important days like Christmas and Good Friday, when we remember that Jesus' ^{birth and} death brought ~~us~~ salvation to the world so it is debatable to consider which is the most important.

(c) ~~For~~ Christians such as Quakers, ~~they~~ believe that ~~the Eucharist isn't~~ the Eucharist isn't anything ^{it is merely a remembrance for Jesus and it's nothing} significant. They believe that the bread and wine is ^a ~~the~~ distraction of the world. ~~and keeps them~~ They claim that the Holy Spirit is already present in us, as it says in the Bible "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?"

Also, ~~Non-conformist~~ some Non-Conformist Churches and Orthodox Churches believe in commemoration, which is the belief that the Eucharist is only ^{remembrance} ~~and remembrance~~ of Jesus from the Last Supper but the bread and wine remain unchanged.

They received ~~the~~ bread and wine in Church, without actually believing in ~~transubstantiation~~ transubstantiation.

(d) (i) I agree because confirmation is a sacrament from which the "inward grace" from God is received. Also, ~~a~~ confirmation is a personal pentecost and it ~~is~~ is the last sacrament of initiation, so it makes a Christian a full member of ~~the~~ the Church.

Confirmation is also ~~made~~ received when a Christian uses their free will to completely ~~accept~~ accept their religion and receive the Holy Spirit.

(ii) However, others may disagree because as long as you believe in God with strong faith, there is no need to be confirmed. Also, Christians are already baptised ~~&~~ which already makes them a child of God and receive the "inward grace."



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Examiner Comments

(b) It is acceptable for candidates to say they are unsure as long as it is a personal view.

This candidate gives two developed reasons on both sides of the argument.

Reason 1 – 'remembers events of the resurrection' developed by the link to eternal life

Reason 2 – 'other festivals are about Jesus bringing salvation to the world' developed by reference to Christmas and Good Friday, linked with his birth and death

4 marks

(c) The candidate is awarded full marks for two developed reasons about the significance of the Eucharist for the Quakers and its place in Nonconformist Churches.

8 marks

(d)(i) The candidate gives a fully developed reason about confirmation as a sacrament.

3 marks

(d)(ii) The candidate gives a reason about faith being all that matters followed by a developed reason about the importance of baptism.

3 marks

Total = 18 marks



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Examiner Tip

Use key terms and specialist language to develop the responses to all parts of the question.

Question 7 (a)

Q7 was the most popular in this section on *Living the Christian Life*.

Q7 (a)(b)(c)(d) had sections specifically concerned with:

- the Sermon on the Mount
- how Christians use the Ten Commandments as a guide for living
- how one Christian organisation helps to relieve poverty and/or suffering in the UK
- how and why Christians use the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount about money

The (a) question required the candidates to state what the Sermon on the Mount was. This was one of the (a) question where the candidates tended to lose marks: either they gave only an example of the teachings from it, or they attributed it to Moses, or they said only that it was from Jesus.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☐ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 7 ☒

Question 8 ☐

Write your answer here:

(a) A talk Jesus gave on a mountain about how to live a christian life



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This is a fully correct answer. It is an alternative wording to the glossary definition.
2 marks

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

(b) In this question, candidates were asked to consider if Christians should never be jealous of other people's belongings.

The vast majority of candidates were able to offer reasons both agreeing and disagreeing with the statement. The most common reasons supporting the statement were that it was against one of the Ten Commandments and that it could lead to the breaking of another, eg do not steal.

There were some interesting responses that linked with Jesus' teachings about wealth. Those that disagreed tended to focus on it being a natural human emotion and that it was the action, not the feeling, that was important.

(c) This was a well-answered question, where candidates identified correctly an organisation that works in the UK to relieve poverty and suffering. Some candidates could not be awarded any marks because they wrote about such organisations as CAFOD or a non-Christian organisation. The vast majority of candidates wrote about the work of the Salvation Army.

Some candidates gave reasons *why* such an organisation does the work, a 'how' question requires them to give the *ways* the organisation helps the poor or those who are suffering.

(d) This required candidates to consider whether or not a person can be rich and a good Christian. This was a well-answered question and many candidates used Jesus' teachings about money to help them to develop their answers.

It appeared that some of these answers were rushed because the candidates had not allowed themselves enough time to complete them to the best of their ability.

In this part of the specification candidates are required to study a Christian organisation that works to relieve poverty/suffering **in the UK**, so centres are advised that a relevant example is chosen for study for their students and that this is highlighted to them.

(b) I do think christians should never be jealous of other people's belongings because in the ten commandments, one of them is to not envy others, so if you're a christian and you obey God then you shouldn't be jealous of other people's belongings. In addition, if you're jealous then that could lead to theft or something else which is another one of the ten commandments broken.

(c) The Salvation Army is a christian organisation that helps the poor or people who are suffering in the UK. Then shelter people who are homeless which is loving and is what God wants all Christians to do today. Also they help to do food banks which collect food in and distributes it to people who don't have any. In addition, they sing and go around the country to collect donations which are then used to help people who are starving or homeless or suffering in any kind of way. Also, to help people who are not suffering from lack of food or shelter but who are in other difficult situations, they set up different groups which are run by people who have enough experience to know how to deal with these problems.

(d) (i) I disagree because as a Christian I believe that it doesn't matter how much money you have, if your heart is fixed on God, then you could be rich or poor. Also in the Bible it says 'the love of money is the root of all evil', ~~this~~ money isn't the root of all evil, the 'Love' of money is the root of all evil. Finally, if you're rich then you can be a good Christian by sharing it and distributing your wealth in a way that benefits the community.

(iii) Some people may ~~disagree~~ disagree with me because even though the 'Love' of money, it can be easy to forget that and we become centered around our money. ^{Also} we're only humans and we can be tempted to not share money even if we are rich, which is why people are around ~~to~~ us encouraging ^{us} ~~us~~ to help the community financially. Also if you have a lot of money, it can be easy to be less grateful for things, some people might say it's better to be poorer then you can be a lot more grateful and value more things.



(b) Two developed reasons

Reason 1 – 'One of the Ten Commandments' developed by linking this commandment to 'envy'

Reason 2 – 'leads to theft' developed by 'breaking another commandment'

4 marks

(c) Four reasons

The candidate names an organisation correctly, that works in the UK: the Salvation Army, which

- helps the homeless
- establishes food banks
- arranges collections/donations that are used to help the poor
- establishes support groups for those who are suffering

8 marks

(d)(i) One simple reason and one developed reason

- 'it does not matter if your heart is fixed on God'
- 'love of money is the root of all evil' developed by explaining the meaning of the quote

The candidate goes on to give a further reason.

3 marks

(d)(ii) One simple reason and one developed reason

- 'easy to become centred around money'
- 'only human therefore tempted not to share' developed through an example of why people today need to be encouraged to give, showing why it is not easy to be rich and a Christian

3 marks

Total = 18 marks



Remember that in this section of the specification you are asked to refer to a Christian organisation that works to relieve poverty and/or suffering **in the UK**.

Question 8 (a)

Q8 (a)(b)(c)(d) had sections concerned specifically with:

- examples of religious communities
- the importance of vocation for Christians
- how some Christians are involved in working for social and community cohesion
- how Christians use the teachings from the Sermon on the Mount to reinterpret the Law of Moses

The (a) question required the candidates to give two examples of religious communities. Most gave two correct examples of religious communities, the most common examples being the Benedictines, Carmelites, Missionaries of Charity and Taize.

Some candidates gave examples of Christian denominations eg The Salvation Army or Methodists, for which they could not receive any credit.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: **Question 7** ☒

Question 8 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) *Two examples of a religious community are Taize and the Salvation Army.*



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives one religious community, Taize, and one Christian denomination, The Salvation Army.

1 mark



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates should know the difference between a religious community, as defined in the specification, and a Christian denomination.

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

(b) In this question candidates were asked to consider whether or not some vocations are better than others.

Most candidates were able to engage with the question and showed that they understood what a vocation was. Some weaker answers focussed on a vocation being a job and so found it harder to give reasons why some are better than others, beyond that they help others.

Those candidates agreeing gave examples such as: those taking Holy Orders, being part of a religious community, serving others or raising a family. Those disagreeing focussed on the nature of vocation being a calling from God, so all are equal.

(c) This was a well-answered question when candidates linked correctly the ways to social and community cohesion. Those who focussed on Christians doing only charity work often did not answer the question as set.

The examples were wide ranging including: being part of a *Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education* (SACRE), helping asylum seekers, being involved with groups that work for racial equality and churches working with other faith groups.

(d) This question required candidates to consider whether or not Christians should always 'turn the other cheek'.

This was a well-answered question and most candidates were familiar with the reference. They could apply the teaching to different situations so they could give examples to develop their answers.

Candidates often compared this saying with the teaching of 'an eye for an eye ..' and referred to other teachings of Jesus and even debated if Jesus himself 'turned the other cheek...!'

Less able candidates tended to interpret it as 'Christians should ignore things' and so found it harder to achieve marks.

(b) Yes. I think that ~~being~~ joining a religious order is better than a vocation to family life because, especially in active orders, you can help more people in the wider community and make more of a difference to those in need.

Also, joining a religious order is a better vocation due to the full commitment that the members can show to God. Due to the evangelical counsels which you have to take ~~before~~ before joining, there are no distractions of family life.

(c) Christians have set up groups which members of different religions can go to, to discuss how to get along well with each other.

Christians try and promote educating children about different religions in school.

Some churches have allowed two people of different religions to be married in them to show support for community cohesion, despite ~~the~~ religion.

Some churches hold fairs and other events to encourage the whole local community to get together, meet each other and get along.

(d) (i) Yes because Jesus taught it in the sermon on the Mount and his teachings must be followed. Wanting to get revenge for what people have done is not right and will only make the situation worse. The Bible teaches about the importance of forgiveness and having the grace to not hold grudges against people.

(ii) Someone may disagree because if someone does or says something offensive to you, it is only fair that you should do something in return. In the story of ~~the~~ Noah and the Ark, we are shown that punishment is sometimes necessary, even from God. The Bible teaches to stand up for what is right and for what you believe in, and if the right thing to do is get revenge on somebody, then that is what you should do.



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Examiner Comments

(b) Two developed reasons

Reason 1 - 'belonging to a religious order is better because it helps more people in the wider community' developed by 'makes more of a difference to those in need'

Reason 2 - 'belonging to a religious order better due to the full commitment made to God' developed by reference to the 'evangelical counsels'

4 marks

(c) Four correct ways

- 'set up groups for different religions to go to'
- 'promotes within education the teaching of different religions'
- 'allow Christians to marry other religions in church'
- 'hold events to encourage local community to get along'

Level 4

8 marks

(d)(i) Three simple reasons

- 'Jesus taught this in Sermon on the Mount'
- 'revenge makes the situation worse'
- 'the importance of forgiveness'

3 marks

(d)(ii) One simple reason and one developed reason

- 'only fair to do something in return'
- 'punishment sometimes necessary' developed by linking with the story of Noah

3 marks

Total = 18 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates are advised to make a clear distinction between 'how' and 'why' questions in part (c) of the question.

'How' questions require candidates to give ways that something is shown or seen, not the reasons why it is important.

Paper Summary

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

- Candidates should learn, and make use of, key terms in answers to all the questions set to help to develop their answers
- Candidates should ensure that they answer each part from one of the questions only. If they answer a part from the other question they will not receive marks for all of their answers
- Make sure that candidates know what a religious community is, according to the specification. They should be able to give examples of how a religious community shows the love of God and love of others
- Candidates should read part (d) questions carefully. If it refers to Christians in the statement at the start of the question, candidates need to consider different Christians' responses rather than religious and non-religious responses. This will give the best chance of achieving the higher marks in both parts
- In Sections 2 and 3 in particular, candidates should know and understand the different beliefs and practices between Christian denominations and the reasons behind them, as highlighted in the specification
- In Section 4, ensure that the example of the Christian organisation studied is one that works to relieve poverty/suffering **in the UK**
- When using such teachings as the Golden Rule in an answer, candidates should ensure that they link it with the question being asked, so that they may receive credit for it. There is an increasing number of candidates who think that by only mentioning key teachings or beliefs they have answered the question and so will be awarded the marks, but this is not the case
- Be careful not to confuse key people in the Christian Tradition eg Jesus and Moses, and Peter and Paul. Common errors include Jesus giving the Ten Commandments and St Paul being the first Pope
- In (b) questions, answers may be developed by giving examples or linking to beliefs or key teachings. Also, two developed reasons are all that is needed to gain full marks
- In part (d)(ii) candidates should give reasons why some people might hold an opposing view to their own. It is not enough only to state that other people do not believe or accept the view they - the candidate - has given

Grade Boundaries

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with its registered office at 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL.