

# Examiners' Report

## June 2016

### GCSE Religious Studies 5RS10 01

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# Introduction

This is the penultimate year of this specification, with over 11,000 candidates answering Unit 10.

Once again, the examination has seen very good performances by candidates, with some demonstrating a very high and mature level of understanding of the beliefs and practices of Roman Catholicism.

As will be outlined in the body of this report, there were a couple of areas for which some candidates seemed less well prepared. These tended to be in topics that have seen similar problems in the past, such as the Church as the communion of saints, and the meaning of the Eucharist in Churches other than Roman Catholicism. Centres should exhort pupils to focus on the full range of the specification, and to find ways to enhance their understanding of subjects they find more challenging.

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

The subjects covered in Question (Q)1 abcd this year included:

- faith
- Jesus as the Son of God
- the Holy Spirit
- living in a religious community.

a) The keyword 'faith' was understood quite well, many students having learnt the glossary definition. Some students achieved just one mark because they identified a particular faith, such as Christianity.

b) This question asked whether it is important for Christians to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Very few students said it was not important. The most common reasons offered for why it is important, focussed on events in Jesus' life that confirmed his divine status, such as the incarnation, the resurrection and his miracles. Many also pointed out that unless Jesus is the Son of God, then salvation has not been achieved.

c) This question asked about the importance of the Holy Spirit. It was a well-answered question, mentioning the Holy Spirit as:

- part of the Trinity
- the inspirer of the evangelists
- the guide of the pope and bishops.

Many students also wrote about the part played by the Holy Spirit in the sacraments.

d) The final part of this question asked about the relative merits of life inside and outside a religious community, as a means of showing love for God. Although there were many very good answers, some students failed to recognise that, in the specification, a 'religious community' refers specifically to the life of men and women who have taken the evangelical counsels.

This is a point that has been stressed in previous reports. Notwithstanding that, credit was given to reasons that could apply to any Christian community, but were especially relevant to members of religious orders. An example would be that living in a religious community allows people to pray together regularly.

Those students who had a full understanding of the question often referred to the commitment to God shown through the vows. On the other side, it was argued that those who lived outside religious communities often had more opportunity to show love of God through their love of others.

This is an example of an answer that is fully correct in all parts.

(a) Firm belief without logical proof.

(b) Firstly, I think it is important for Christians to believe that Jesus is the Son of God because he died for our sins. This means that he brought us salvation from sin and only the Son of God has the power to do this therefore we must believe he is the Son of God.

Secondly, I think it is important for Christians to believe that Jesus is the Son of God because it makes his teachings more important. If he was just a normal person they wouldn't mean much but because he is the Son of God it makes the teachings have a greater meaning and purpose.

(c) Firstly, the Holy Spirit is important for Christians because it is the third part of the holy trinity.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit is important

for Christians because it can help them to decide who to elect as the next pope as it influences their decision.

Thirdly, the Holy Spirit is important for Christians because in the transubstantiation it makes the bread and wine turn into the body and blood of Jesus.

Finally, the Holy Spirit is important for Christians because it helps the Pope and the Bishop interpret the bible.

Furthermore, the Holy Spirit is important for Christians because it says so in the Catechism and the Creeds.

(d) (i) Firstly, I agree because the Carmelite nuns do the vow of poverty where they give up all their material possessions to show love to God.

Secondly, I agree because the Carmelite nuns do the vow of Chastity where they give up outside contact in order to show love to God.

Thirdly, I agree because the Carmelite nuns spend hours and hours each day praying in order to show love to God.

(ii) However, some people may disagree and say you can pray to God in your room in order to show love to him.

Secondly, some people may disagree and say you can give to the poor in order to show love to God.

Finally, some people may disagree and say you can take part in all of the sacraments in order to show love to God.

Furthermore, some people may disagree and say you can visit the sick and elderly in order to show love to God.





## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

a) This is the glossary definition. 2 marks

b) Two developed reasons are given. 4 marks

- It is important to believe that Jesus is the Son of God because that means we have been saved from sin. This is developed by reference to the power that Jesus' divinity brings.
- It is also important because the belief makes Jesus' teaching more important. This was developed by saying that they have more meaning and purpose.

c) Four reasons are given. 8 marks

The Holy Spirit:

- is part of the Trinity
- guides in the choice of the Pope
- effects the change of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus
- guides the Magisterium.

Reference to the Creeds and Catechism are accurate, but not needed to gain full marks.

d) This answer indicates that the student understands a religious community to be one of men or women who have taken vows. In this case, the Carmelite nuns are used as an example, but it was not necessary to name a specific order.

They display their love of God by:

- renouncing material possessions
- living a solitary life with God
- regular prayer.

The opposite side of the argument was used by many students, ie that many of the same actions of devotion to God can be done without being in an order. Also, those outside orders can often find it easier to show love of God in service to others.

3 + 3 marks

23 marks



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Sometimes, a belief is important to Catholics because it says so in the:

- Creeds
- Bible
- Catechism.

However, that is not always the case and, even when it is true, a list of these three sources will only gain one level of marks.



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

The subjects covered in Q2 this year included:

- unity
- salvation from sin
- the love of God
- love of neighbour.

a) There was some confusion regarding the correct answer to this question. A number of candidates defined either the Trinity or monotheism. The correct answer needed was to stress the oneness of God. The notion of oneness, without reference to God, gained one mark.

b) This question asked about the importance of belief in salvation from sin. Very few answers suggested that it was not an important belief. Most answers either focussed on the role of Jesus in securing salvation, or of the need for salvation in order to gain entry to heaven. References to the purpose of the sacraments were also rewarded.

c) This question asked how the love of God might affect the lives of Christians. It was important for the answers to focus on the idea of change: that because of the love of God, people would change their attitude or behaviour. Many answers focussed on this very effectively and it was a well-answered question. Students made reference to people becoming more prayerful or more charitable, for example. Some students focussed on love *for* God as opposed to the love *of* God, but usually their answers were of the same nature.

d) This question used the ordinary idea of 'neighbour' as someone who lives close by and asked candidates to discuss whether love of them was more important than loving people they did not know. The question was well-answered. Students who favoured loving people they knew pointed out how difficult it is to care for strangers or to know their needs. Those expressing the other point of view tended to point out that Jesus taught that a neighbour was anyone in need, whether friend or foe, and developed answers with reference to the Good Samaritan.

This is a good answer, with almost all marks achieved, apart from on the (a) question.

(a) Trinity is the belief that God is 3 in one, the Father, son and the Holy Spirit.

(b) Firstly, I believe all Christians must believe in salvation from sin because salvation grants you eternal life in heaven with God thus all Christians should believe in salvation of sin and try to achieve salvation.

Secondly, I believe all Christians must believe in salvation from sin because sinning without being forgiven during confession will mean you will get sent to purgatory or even hell as you have acted against God.

(c) Firstly, love of God means Christians will go to Church for Mass where they will hear the word of God and receive the

eucharist.

Secondly, Christians with love of God will get married in a Church to unite the couple with God to strengthen their relationship not only between them but also with God.

Thirdly, love of God affects Christians' lives as they will pray to God most if not all days before meals and bed etc.

Finally, Christians with love for God will raise good Christian children therefore spreading God's word from the Bible. They can do this by taking them to a Catholic school for example.

(d) (i) Firstly, I agree because loving your neighbour is <sup>the second greatest commandment</sup> ~~the golden rule~~ therefore it must be more important than loving those you don't know.

Secondly, loving your neighbour is more important because the golden rule is to treat others as you'd like to be treated therefore by loving your neighbours they will love you.

Thirdly, I agree because in the Catechism it says loving your neighbour is very important.

(ii) However, some may disagree with me because of the Good Samaritan where the Samaritan helped the man he did not know.

Secondly, some people may disagree with me because in the Parable of the

Sheep and Goats God says that helping others is helping him so those who did were sent to heaven.

Finally, some may disagree with me because Jesus helped people he did not know so we should follow in his way.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

a) Unfortunately, this answer defines another keyword, 'Trinity'. Therefore, in line with the Mark Scheme (and the SAMs), and despite the fact that there is a reference to 'oneness', it cannot be awarded any marks. 0 marks

b) Here, the candidate provides a good example of one simple, and one developed, reason. 3 marks

- The first reason points out that salvation from sin guarantees the possibility of going to heaven.
- The second reason is that salvation is provided by the sacraments, developed by saying that without that forgiveness, sinners could go to hell.

c) This question asks about the changes brought about by the love of God. Candidates provided many answers. There are four typical responses here. People will:

- go to church more often
- marry in church to strengthen their relationship with God
- pray more often
- raise a Christian family.

Even without four reasons, this answer would have achieved 8 marks, because there is development, for example by explaining the aspects of raising a Christian family. 8 marks

d) This answer about loving neighbours and strangers is also a typical example of the many good answers seen by examiners.

- Love of neighbour is the second most important commandment, it follows the Golden Rule, and it is taught in the catechism.
- On the other side of the argument, it is pointed out that the parable of the Good Samaritan is an example of help given to a stranger. Also the parable of the Sheep and Goats is invoked (which we know teaches about visiting the sick and prisoners).
- Finally, Jesus himself helped people he did not know.

If the candidate had given an example, an occasion, that would have been 'development', although, in fact, the candidate has already achieved full marks.

3+3 marks

20 marks



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Giving examples of parables taught by Jesus, or using examples of Jesus' own actions, can be reasons in themselves or they can be used to develop reasons.

### Question 3 (a)

The keyword in Q3a was 'holy'.

In terms of awarding marks, candidates needed to provide a definition that indicated that holiness was a quality that related to God. Those who gave examples of holy things, holy people, holy actions, gained one mark.

Candidates do not need to use the glossary definition.

(a) Holy means dedicated to God.



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

'Holy' means 'relating to God', according to the glossary definition. However, all similar words would have been accepted for full marks, as in this case: 'dedicated' to God.

2 marks



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Sometimes it is best to try to remember the glossary definition for keywords, but candidates may use their own words and still gain full marks.



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

The subjects covered by Q3bcd this year included:

- the Magisterium
- celibacy of the clergy
- the Church saving from sin.

b) The importance of the Magisterium was well understood, with candidates especially focussing on its role in updating teaching to deal with modern issues such as IVF. Those who sought to deny the importance of the Magisterium often focussed on the primacy of a person's conscience in moral decision making. Some confused the Magisterium with the College of Cardinals.

c) This was a well-answered question, with candidates able to offer a host of reasons, including:

- the example of Jesus
- the need to be devoted to God
- providing for the needs of the parish
- saving the Church from the expense of supporting a priest's family.

Occasionally, candidates offered both sides of the debate, but this was not required by the question, and such reasons could not be rewarded.

d) This question asked candidates to consider whether the Church saved people from sin. It was well answered, with many candidates discussing the role of the sacraments, especially baptism and reconciliation. The opposing arguments came from the Protestant tradition, and stressed the idea that people are saved by Jesus alone, and also that seeking forgiveness, and therefore salvation, could be part of a personal relationship with God.

This is an example of a combination of good answers and other answers that did not achieve any marks, or did not achieve full marks, due to specific deficiencies.

(b) I think the magisterium is important for all Catholics because they help the people who work with in the church and are there to support the community.

The image shows a handwritten student response on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and matches the content of the 'Handwritten Answer' block. The paper has horizontal lines and a vertical margin line on the right.



(c) The celibacy of the clergy is important for some Christians firstly because if you are helping and committed to God you will have no time to take care of a family, it is a sacrifice they would have to take.

Secondly when joining the clergy you are giving your life to God and agreeing to do what he wants you should not disobey.

Thirdly the celibacy of the church is important for some Christians because the clergy are representations of God on earth and God hasn't got a partner or took part in sexual interactions. They are living the life of God.

Finally the celibacy is important because it shows ~~importance because~~ the love for God and the things you should give up if called by God.

(d) (i) I disagree that the church saves people from sin because everybody is born to sin it is natural among humans, nobody is perfect.

I also disagree because everyone has free will and God can not change peoples minds.

(ii) Roman catholics will disagree with me and say if you live life following the Golden rule and living for salvation it will lead you away from ~~the~~ sin.

Roman catholics will also disagree and say that when going to church you should ask for help from God in reconciliation, and when praying the our father you are asking to be 'delivered from evil'



b) In some ways this attempt to explain the value of the Magisterium contains a measure of truth – 'they help people who work within the Church'. However, it is too vague to receive any marks, and could apply to a range of other people or organisations within the Church. 0 marks

c) Many good reasons were given by candidates regarding why celibacy of the clergy could be considered important. However, some of the reasons can be too similar, to the point of being repetitive. In this case, marks were awarded for the following comments:

- the time restraints of having to care for a family
- that it is a form of total dedication to God
- because the priest can represent God (we can accept that for Jesus) in some parts of their work and
- Jesus did not have a partner

The last point, however, only summarises some of the earlier points, specifically the second point about 'giving your life to God', and could not be rewarded. 6 marks

d) On one side of the discussion only two reasons are provided:

- the Church cannot save people from sin because it is just natural, no one is perfect
- free will means that some people will always choose to sin, no matter what help God provides

The other side of the discussion only receives three marks, although the answers were close to being insufficiently explained to be credited.

- We can accept that the Golden Rule is a teaching people learn through membership of the Church, and can lead away from sin.
- The sacrament of reconciliation is a more straightforward reason.
- Finally, again, in the Our Father people show confidence that God will deliver them from evil. The Our Father is a prayer of the Church and, again, this was credited.

2+3 marks

11 marks



When giving just four simple reasons in answer to a (c) question, candidates should check that they have not repeated a point they made earlier.

### Question 4 (a)

The keyword in Q4a this year was 'ordination'.

Most candidates knew that ordination was about the priesthood, but for both marks, it needed to be clarified that ordination was the action or sacrament by which people became deacons, priests, or bishops.

In similarity with Q3a, this example indicates that various forms of words may be used by candidates, provided they capture the essence of the meaning.

(a) Ordination is the process of becoming a priest.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

To achieve full marks, the candidate needed to demonstrate that ordination is the action by which someone becomes a priest. This use of the word 'process' captures that idea, as did many similar words.

2 marks

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

The subjects covered in Q4 bcd this year included:

- the role of the parish priest
- the Church as the communion of saints
- obedience to the pope and bishops.

b) Most candidates were aware of the role of the parish priest. Most candidates focussed on the sacramental and advisory role of parish priests, although some also spoke of the priest's role of working in the wider community, such as helping to provide charity, promote ecumenism and social cohesion.

c) This was probably the least well-answered question. A significant number of candidates did not understand the concept, but focussed on the words 'communion' and 'saints', speaking about receiving communion at Mass, or that parishes are named after saints. Such answers could sometimes be rewarded, depending on how the answer was framed. For example, it was acceptable to point out that all Christians express their unity when they receive communion. Those candidates who had better prepared themselves for this question were able to refer to the Church as a means for everyone to achieve holiness, and of the community that exists between those on earth and those in heaven.

d) This question asked candidates to consider whether obedience to the pope and bishops was important for Catholics. This was well answered, and focussed either on the role of bishops as successors of the apostles, or on the primacy of conscience. Some candidates did not notice that the question referred to *Catholics* and spoke about how atheists would not obey the pope. This, and similar answers, could not be credited.

This is an example of a weaker answer overall, but one in which the candidate gained Level 3 for the question about the Church as the communion of saints. It is a good example of how marks were awarded for that question.

(b) I do think the priest plays an important role in the local community as he visits local schools teaching them more about God and religion.

However I also think the priest does not play an important role in the local community as the majority of people can spread the word of the

word and teach young people about religions etc.

Firstly

(c) The Catholic Church is called the communion of saints because it brings together all of the Catholic Christians.

Secondly, ~~because~~ this ~~because~~ is because God is present in the Church bringing the saints together.

Thirdly, this is because the Church is a place of prayer and a lot of the time people pray to saints so they are remembered at Church.

Finally the Church is called the communion of saints because at mass ~~remember~~ we remember the last supper with all the saints.



(d) (i) I don't agree all Catholics should obey the popes and bishops as Catholics are free to do what they like so don't have to obey them.

I also do not agree with this because the person can still go to heaven even if they've ignored the pope/bishop.

Finally I don't agree because it is not breaking the law or 10 commandments so it's not a sin.

(ii) However ~~some~~ some people might disagree with me because they are Catholic therefore should obey them.

also people might disagree with me because in a way, they are the leaders so naturally should be obeyed.

finally,





b) There are two simple reasons here. 2 marks

- The fact that the priest can visit schools is not a reason to give a mark because, of itself, it does not indicate the importance of the priest. It is only a reason when the candidate indicates the purpose for going to the school, ie to teach about God and religion.
- Candidates are allowed to be equivocal, and give one reason for and one reason against. In this case, the candidate points out that a priest is not needed to preach and teach about the faith, and that anyone can do it.

c) There are three reasons here. 6 marks

- The Church is called the 'communion of saints' because it brings together the Christian community. A very similar point is made in the second paragraph, and cannot be rewarded twice.
- It is called the 'communion of saints' because in church Christians pray to the saints.
- Finally, at Mass, Christians remember the Last Supper with the saints. Although each answer must be judged on merit, answers that referred to the Eucharist/Communion/Last Supper as a point of union with the saints would have been rewarded.

d) One side of the argument is well answered. The main reason given is that people are free to make their own decisions about whether to obey the pope and bishops.

The candidate then offers the fact that there is no commandment that insists upon obedience and also that, of itself, disobedience is not an impediment to going to heaven (which is a legitimate argument, even if one with which many Catholics would disagree). This could be judged as a fully developed reason.

On the other side of the argument, however, the first response repeats the point of the question. The second answer, concerning the leadership role of the pope and bishops, was credited.

3+1 marks

12 marks



When answering questions that ask whether Catholics should behave in a certain way or believe a certain thing, sometimes candidates simply say they should because this is what Catholics do or believe. This approach can never be credited because, in effect, it is simply a repetition of the question.

### **Question 5 (a)**

The keyword for Q5a was 'contrition'.

There is sometimes confusion in the minds of candidates about two of the key words associated with the sacrament of reconciliation, and some gave the wrong definition. 'Contrition' is about being sorry, but to gain both marks it was necessary to specify that the sorrow was about wrong-doing, or sin.

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

The subjects covered by Q5 bcd this year included:

- the sacrament of anointing
- Easter
- Lent.

b) This question asked about the importance of the sacrament of anointing, and also referred to those who are sick, rather than to those near death. This was not to exclude answers that spoke about the 'last rites' but to include possible answers relating to this as a healing sacrament. It was well answered, with reference also to the opportunity to receive reconciliation and communion. Few candidates argued that it was not important. Those who did, usually spoke of there being no need for people who have a slight illness to receive the sacrament.

c) Most candidates remembered that Easter starts with the events and rituals surrounding Jesus' resurrection. However, there was still a tendency for a more overall coverage, mostly referring to Holy Week, but some candidates believing that Ash Wednesday is also part of Easter. Credit could only be given for references to the:

- significance of the resurrection
- proof of divine power
- existence of the afterlife
- authentication of Jesus' prophecies.

References to the celebration of Easter, the fire, the paschal candle, and so forth, were also rewarded.

d) This was a well-answered question overall, with references to:

- a period of preparation
- fasting
- good works
- the story of Jesus' time in the desert

Some candidates found it more difficult to argue from the other point of view. It was not sufficient to say, simply, that Christmas is more important, because that is not what the question asked. Many candidates spoke of the lack of observance of Lent, or of the idea that the activities of Lent should always be part of a Christian's life.

This is a very good answer, deficient only at the end by the candidate not explaining why Lent might be considered unimportant.

(b) Firstly, I think all Catholics should receive the sacrament of anointing the sick when ill as you're anointed with the Oil of the Sick. This gives the sick person the strength to recover and prepares them for death if they die.

Secondly, the sacrament of reconciliation is part of the sacrament of the sick. This means the ill person's sins can be forgiven. If they die, this allows them to achieve salvation, hence I think all ill Catholics need to receive the ~~Sacrament~~ sacrament of the sick.

(c) Easter is important for Roman Catholics as it proves that there is life after death. For Jesus to resurrect, He must have gone to heaven.

Secondly, at Easter we remember that Jesus died to save us from ~~the~~ sin. ~~It is~~ It <sup>is</sup> at Easter when Catholics are reminded of His sacrifice to us.

Thurdly, at Easter we remember Jesus' resurrection. His resurrection ~~fulfilled the prophecies~~ proved that He is who He said He was - the Son of God. ~~Only~~ Only the Son of God could rise from the dead.

Finally, Easter is important for Catholics as it is a time for them to reflect. God made a big sacrifice for us, so many Catholics will show love for God more around Easter.

(d) (i) Firstly, I agree that Lent is important for all Christians as it prepares us for Easter - an important time in the Church.

Secondly, it is a time for Christians to show their love to God.

Thirdly, Christians can give things up at Lent just like Jesus gave His life up for us.

Finally, it is a time for Christians to remember Jesus saving us from sin so we can be truly thankful. Hence, I think Lent is important for all Christians.

(ii) People may disagree and say ~~Christmas~~ <sup>Christmas</sup> is a more important time as it is ~~pro~~ when <sup>the incarnation occurred.</sup> ~~Jesus was incarnated.~~

Secondly, Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth; Christianity wouldn't exist if He wasn't born.

Finally, Christmas is also a family time whereas Lent is not. At Christmas we remember that Jesus was born into a family showing He is human.

The Catechism says Christmas is the most.





## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

b) There are two developed reasons here.

- There is reference to the act of anointing itself, which then gives the sick person strength.
- The candidate mentions the opportunity for reconciliation, which can offer salvation in the event of their death.

In this case, marks were awarded for a recognition of the key components of the sacrament, including anointing, reconciliation, communion and so forth. 4 marks

c) There are four reasons given.

- Easter is the time we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.
- The resurrection proves life after death.
- It also proves that Jesus was, indeed, the Son of God.
- It is a time of reflection.

The fourth reason, a time to reflect, is a little vague. But it is true that the major festivals are a time to reflect on the major events of Jesus' life, so it was credited. 8 marks

d) Three marks were gained in a straightforward way for the reasons why it is important to celebrate Lent. It:

- prepares Christians for Easter
- is a special time to show love of God
- is a time for giving things up.

However, the candidate had difficulty with the other side of the argument. Most of the answer simply tries to say that Christmas is more important, which does not answer the question. However, credit is given for the idea that the importance of Lent is diminished because it is not a family celebration. It is a weak point but it gains a mark because it does refer to Lent itself.

Better answers mention, for example, the idea that every day would be a time of giving and for acts of kindness.

3+1 marks

16 marks



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Only questions that ask whether a certain festival is **the most** important for Christians can be answered by saying that some other festival is more important, and the answer would need to include a reason.



## Question 6 (a)

The keyword for Q6a was 'absolution'.

This key word emphasises the idea of forgiveness of sin, and the question was well answered.

Many forms of words were possible in answer to this question and many paraphrases of the glossary definition were used by candidates.

(a) Absolution is God's action, through a priest, of forgiving the sins if the person is truly sorry.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This is a full answer, but it gets to the heart of the meaning – forgiving sins.

2 marks

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

The subjects covered by Q6 bcd this year included:

- the sacrament of reconciliation
- the Eucharist in other Christian traditions
- baptism.

b) The value of the sacrament of reconciliation was understood well, and most candidates responded to the idea that it should be undertaken 'regularly'. This allowed some to speak of the way in which it keeps the need to avoid sin constantly in mind, or allows people to feel they are ever ready to meet death.

c) This question also proved difficult for a significant number of candidates. The first difficulty was the failure to recognise that 'other' traditions meant 'other than Roman Catholic'. However, it was accepted for marking that some Anglicans for example, and Orthodox Churches, hold very similar beliefs, so 'transubstantiation' and 'the real presence' could be rewarded, depending on the context of the answer.

A second difficulty was that quite a large number of candidates only understood the Eucharist as 'going to mass, going to communion' without a more theological understanding of what the Eucharist signifies for various different denominations. Those who answered well spoke of:

- commemoration
- symbolic presence
- the relative unimportance of the Eucharist in some traditions.

d) This question was answered well.. On the positive side, candidates said that baptism was the decision of parents because of the benefits it brought, such as washing of sin and membership of the Church.

On the other side, a great deal of emphasis was placed on freedom of choice and the option of people making such a commitment when they are old enough to understand.

This is a very good answer, gaining full marks in all sections.

(b) Firstly, I think all <sup>Catholics</sup> ~~Christians~~ should receive the Sacrament of reconciliation ~~because~~ regularly because when receiving the Sacrament you are granted pardon and receive God's grace. This means you are forgiven for sins. Therefore when you go regularly then you are free from sins.

However, I also think that Catholics do not have to go to the Sacrament of reconciliation regularly because during mass the penitential rite takes place. This means that sins are acknowledged and then an altar can be taken place by the sinners so that they are sorry and before are forgiven for their sins.

(c) Firstly, Protestant Christians believe that the Eucharist is a remembrance of the Last Supper. This means that the Eucharist does not have to be taken literally, just it is just a remembrance.

Secondly, Protestant Christians believe that the bread and wine used in the Eucharist are just symbols. They do not believe that they can be turned into Jesus' body and blood. They are just symbols of Jesus' body and blood.

Thirdly, Roman Catholics believe that the Eucharist is a re-enactment of the Last Supper and that

the bread and wine are turned to Jesus' body and blood during transubstantiation.

Finally, Orthodox churches (churches in the east - Russia) believe that like some living Catholics do but transubstantiation should take place behind a curtain because the spiritual change of the bread and wine into Jesus' body and blood, is a mystery that humans cannot understand.

(d) (i) Firstly, I disagree because a child should have the right to choose their own faith/religion because it is their mind and they should decide.

Secondly, I disagree, because of religious pluralism/religious freedom. If a family lives in a religious freedom country then their child should choose their own religion. Having their children baptised/baptized takes away that right.

Finally, I disagree because Catholics believe that ~~there are~~ there are other ways to find God, so their children should be allowed to choose their faith. Thus

(ii) However some may disagree with me because parents look upon that as a choice made by their child in a Catholic family such as getting their children baptised.

Secondly, some may disagree with me because by having their children baptised means that they are

free from my original sin and be close to  
now getting the eternal life in heaven

Finally, some may disagree with me because  
by having their children baptised they are fulfilling  
God's wishes to have a Catholic family.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

b) There are two developed reasons. 8 marks

- The sacrament brings God's grace, ensuring you are really free from sins. Also, another point of view, and this balance of points of view is acceptable.
- There is the penitential rite at Mass and that is a time to acknowledge sins and have them forgiven (so the sacrament is not necessary).

c) There are three ways here, one of them is developed.

- The Eucharist is an act of remembrance for many Protestant Churches.
- For some Christians, the bread and wine are only symbolically the body and blood of Jesus.
- The Orthodox Churches believe similar things to Roman Catholics about a spiritual change. This is developed because they are also aware of the Orthodox teaching that the change is a mystery.

However, there are no marks for stating Catholic beliefs.

d) There are three reasons on one side.

- The child should have the right to choose.
- This is different from the freedom of religion, which is awarded a second mark.
- Finally, there are other paths to God and children should be able to take the one they want. Again, this is saying more than just that the child has the right to choose.

For the opposite point of view there are two reasons, one developed.

- The candidate mentions the parents' commitment to raise a Catholic family, which is then fulfilling God's wishes (development).
- They also mention that infant baptism involves the washing away of sin.

3+3 marks

22 marks



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Marks can be gained for development. This can include adding further explanation of a reason given, for example, or perhaps illustrating a reason with a reference to Jesus' actions or teachings.

## Question 7 (a)

The keyword for Q7a was 'charity'.

This question was well understood. For both marks, candidates had to indicate that charity is a form of giving support to someone in need. Giving this support was interpreted widely, such as giving money, giving practical support and so forth. Just 'giving' was worth one mark, as was the naming or defining of a charitable organisation.

This answer provides more than is needed for the marks.

(a) Charity is giving to those who have less than you and are in need, without expecting anything in return.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The marks are gained by the:

- act of giving
- reference to those in need.

Although the aspect of not expecting anything in return is often seen as key to the motivation of charity, in fact it is not essential to the basic concept.

2 marks



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

The subjects covered by Q7 bcd this year included:

- social cohesion
- the Golden Rule
- respect for God.

b) A significant number of candidates do not fully understand the term 'social cohesion', seeing it as a term akin to 'love of neighbour'. Of course there is a clear cross-over, and marks were awarded for talking about the value of kindness to strangers and similar answers. However, it is important that candidates understand that the value of these activities relates to the bringing together of different groups within the community. There were some candidates, of course, who spoke of the promotion of peace, of relieving racial tension and so on.

c) This question asked why Christians use the Golden Rule. It was generally well answered with reference to:

- it being a key teaching of Jesus
- it being easy rule to apply to many situations
- the way it reflects the teaching to place love at the centre of Christian lives.

d) This question asked whether respect for God is more important than love for others. It was also well answered. Those who agreed with the idea wrote about:

- the first commandment
- the relationship Christians have with God as their father, as their creator, and as their destiny.

On the other side was the importance Jesus placed on care for others, and invoked a number of parables. Specifically, the parable of the sheep and goats allowed candidates to point out that respect for God is shown in the way Christians teach each other.

This is a mixed answer. It is very successful in responding to the (c) question, but not to gaining marks in the other sections.

(b) I think it is important for Christians to work for social cohesion because it allows Christians to communicate and also communicate with God. I also think that Christians should work for social cohesion to show their love and respect for God.



10 Christians use the golden rule for living firstly because it is Jesus' commands he gave his life for us so we should take his examples of how to live a good life.

Secondly the Golden rule teaches us how to treat others, we should think of how we would want to be treated by others

Thirdly the Golden rule should be used as a guide to living because it helps us to work towards salvation if you follow in this guide by feeding the hungry, clothing the poor you are living a good life and helping people in need, you will be accepted into eternal life in heaven.

Finally by using the Golden rule as a guide to living because it makes us think of the parable of the good Samaritan that you should help people if you are able to and see someone in need.

(d) (i) I disagree that respect for God is more important than respect for others because everybody should be respected equally.

I also disagree because no matter how superior you think somebody is you should still treat ~~them~~ them with the same amount of respect.

(ii) Roman Catholics will disagree and say God is seen as the highest person so should receive the most respect.

Roman Catholics will also disagree and say that God gave us life and sacrificed his only son for us so we should show him respect for that.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

b) It would appear that the candidate does not really understand the concept of 'social cohesion' and there is only one reason here that is sufficiently clear to merit a mark – that it shows respect for God. Even then, it does not get to the heart of the work for social cohesion, and could be an answer to a question about many other topics. 1 mark

c) The Golden Rule is understood, however. There are three reasons, one developed.

- It is a teaching of Jesus.
- It helps us to salvation, and this is developed by the reference to 'the sheep and goats' that reinforces that teaching.
- It reflects the teaching of the Good Samaritan.

There is no mark for simply explaining what the Golden Rule is. 8 marks

d) Again, the candidate offers only a general response on the first part of their answer, with only one reason here, that everyone should be respected equally.

The second paragraph repeats the same idea. For the opposite point of view there are two reasons, and they are more specific:

- that God should be more respected because of his greatness
- because of the sacrifice of his son that was made for us

1+2 marks

12 marks



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

If a question asks, for example, why a teaching is important, candidates need to do more than simply explain what the teaching is, which, by itself, would not gain any marks.

## Question 8 (a)

The keyword for Q8(a) was 'hypocrite'.

The definition places emphasis on the disconnect between words and deeds. This was generally understood. Many candidates used the glossary definition, but others paraphrased it successfully.

Quite often, candidates lose marks by offering a definition of another key word. This always gains no marks.

(a) Where you judge someone as he was they  
been or where they live



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is a definition of 'prejudice'. The key word for Q7 was 'charity', and so this answer was given no marks.

0 marks



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Beware of defining a different key word in (a) questions. No marks can be gained in such cases.

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

The subjects covered by Q8 bcd this year included:

- judging others
- the vocation of priesthood
- relieving suffering in the UK.

b) This question asked whether Christians should judge others. A few candidates thought they should, speaking about the value of protecting society or making good choices. Most said they should not, often referring to the Golden Rule. Those with better textual knowledge referred to Jesus' teaching about wood in the eye!

c) Most candidates who answered this question demonstrated a good understanding of the motives of those who choose to become priests noting that:

- it is their vocation
- they want to preach the Gospel
- they want to help others
- they want to follow in the footsteps of the apostles.

d) Again, this was well answered. The arguments in favour of helping the suffering in the UK focussed mainly on the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. Those against, mentioned the:

- greater suffering of some outside the UK
- inability of some people to help others due to their own needs
- reference to the possible blame that might be attached to the sufferers themselves.

This is an example of a less able candidate who, nevertheless, was able to gain some marks on this question with simple but accurate answers.

(b) I don't think ~~(Christians)~~ Christians should judge others because Jesus said 'Don't judge other people; treat them the same as everyone else.'

Another reason is because Jesus loved and cared ~~for~~ ~~(every)~~ everyone, he didn't judge them he looked past whatever was wrong with them and he forgave their sins.

(c) One reason is because ~~they~~ might want to have a closer relationship with God.

Another reason is because they could try get other Christians to get closer to God or even get people to start believing in God.

(d) (i) I agree because it's their job to love and care for people and help people to stop sinning.

(ii) Some people might disagree with me because they might say that it's up to them if they want to help or not.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) There are two simple reasons here. 2 marks

- Jesus taught not to judge.
- He cared for everyone equally.

There is no development in the second paragraph; it is just elaboration that does not add to an understanding of Jesus' teaching.

c) Again, there are two simple reasons. 4 marks

- Men become priests to get closer to God themselves.
- They do it to help other people get closer to God.

d) There is a simple reason on each side. It is the job of Christians to help others but, on the other hand, they are entitled to choose not to.

1+1 marks

8 marks



## Paper Summary

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

- Some key words can seem quite similar to others, such as 'contrition' meaning being 'sorry for sins' and 'absolution' meaning 'forgiveness of sins'. Candidates need to be clear about the difference.
- When the question refers to what Catholics should do or believe, no marks can be given for reference to non-Catholics
- The religious community referred to in Section A refers to communities of men and women in vows
- Be prepared for the more challenging concepts in the specification, such as the communion of saints from this year's examination
- In the specification, reference to 'other Christian traditions' mean other than Roman Catholic
- Avoid rubric errors – always answer from only one question in each section
- Unless questions speak about something being the most important, such as the most important festival, simply saying that something else is more important will not gain marks
- Questions about Easter refer to the events commencing with the resurrection of Jesus, and to the religious celebrations surrounding that festival

All that said, many candidates were very well-prepared for the examination, and centres can feel very proud of the extent and maturity of the understanding shown by their pupils.

## **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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