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Examiners' Report June 2010

GCE Religious Studies 6RS02/1G

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General Comments

The Investigations Paper of June 2010 demonstrated an encouraging level of engagement with a wide range of topics by candidates who demonstrated a superb level of scholarship across all areas of study. The enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, the chosen topic was clearly conveyed in many answers that were truly academic in their approach. Candidates were very well prepared for the examination and it was evident that Centres used their specialist resources and interests to encourage candidates to research in depth a particular area of study. It is important to note that the overall title of this unit '*Investigations*' has a definite academic purpose. The aim is to involve students as active participants pursuing open-ended enquiries with an emphasis on independent learning. Questions were designed to be inclusive of all possible approaches to various topics and all valid answers were considered.

Most centres had entered their candidates for the correct option but there were still a few entries for particular areas of study where it might have benefited the candidate more to consider entry for a different area of study. It is important to ensure candidates know which area of their investigation is the best fit for the question they answer on the paper.

Variation in achievement was related to the two Assessment Objectives. These objectives should receive prominent attention in the process of the investigation. Importantly, in the exam itself there must be explicit attention to these objectives in the examination answer. Each question consistently referred to the Assessment Objectives with the trigger word 'Examine' for AO1 and 'Comment on' for AO2. These dictated the structure of the question and helped candidates to plan their answers. It would be advisable for candidates to pay attention to the level descriptors for these assessment objectives as a way of monitoring their development and progress during their investigations. The phrase 'with reference to the topic you have investigated' will always appear in the question to ensure that the generic question can be answered with material from any appropriate investigation. The mark scheme itself is generic to all questions. In preparation for this examination candidates may find it useful to write up their investigation under exam timed conditions to a variety of different possible questions. They might build up a number of different essay plans to different possible questions. The important point in these activities is to enable candidates to develop their management of material such as how to best structure their content to answer the specific question. However, success can be undermined by writing up a rote-learned answer which was not adapted to the question set.

Specific Comments - Area 1G - The Study of Christianity and the Christian Church

Question 1 - Development Of The Church Up To And Including The Reformation

The majority of candidates chose to write about Calvin and Luther when discussing how the key ideas of either an individual and/or movement in the development of the Church was significant. Most candidates paid close attention to the question and used the material they had investigated effectively. The January 2010 Examiner Report shows a variety of conclusions that clearly exemplify the variety of achievement in this question ranging from a conclusion that does not explicitly address the question to one that pays more attention to the demands of the question while stating a view that is supported throughout the essay.

Question 2 - The Modern Period

Some answers focussed on homosexuality as a response to the question. The commentary made in the January 2010 report is repeated here because the same issues persist. Once again, some topics share generic ideas across a number of different areas and it is vital that candidates know the distinctive features of their investigation for example the material on homosexuality could also be used to address Area 1C Question 1. A feature of Area 1G would be the emphasis on Christian Theology and whilst candidates are free to choose their material the answer must show specific knowledge of Christianity and the Christian Church with particular emphasis on the Modern Period.

Question 3 - Christian Belief And Practice

There were a variety of responses to this question; some candidates discussed homosexuality and sexual ethics and others discussed Bonhoeffer as an exemplar of Christian belief and practice.

The essay below shows how a candidate answered the question by had analysing Bonhoeffer's Christian belief and practice. The conclusion conveys a genuine attempt to relate the material studied to contemporary Christianity. The Examiner Report of January 2010 quotes a whole essay which is a good exemplar for this question.

Grade boundaries

Raw mark boundaries

Max Mark	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
50	41	36	31	27	23	19	0

Uniform Mark Scale boundaries

Max Mark	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
100	80	70	60	50	40	30	0

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