

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2013

GCE Religious Studies (6RS04)
Paper 1B
Implications - Ethics

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

(a) Examine the argument and/or interpretation in the passage. (30)

Level	Mark	AO1
1	1-6	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		At this level candidates are likely to struggle to examine the ideas of the extract or to relate them to the passage as a whole. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may identify one of the ethical issues listed in the passage such as abortion or medical treatment.
2	7-12	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		At this level candidates are likely to make some simple statements about the extract. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may identify the claim that ‘abortion, environmental ethics, just war...’ and so on have come to occupy a significant place in modern ethical debate. • They may consider the broader statement that three concerns have marked recent developments in moral philosophy.
3	13-18	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		At this level candidates are likely to make more connections with the ideas expressed in the extract and/or to relate them to the passage as a whole, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the emergence of contemporary ethical concerns has arisen from the changing nature of society; • virtue ethics has a particular appeal in the modern world; • modern ethics needs to take into consideration the needs of the individual and the group.
4	19-24	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		At this level candidates will demonstrate a more detailed understanding of the extract and its place in the argument developed in the passage as a whole using appropriate examples and relating the ideas to wider issues in ethics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may unpack further the claim that there has been a return to Aristotelian ideas of morality. • They may consider reasons why much work is being done on actual social and political problems. • They may discuss why there has been a rapid growth of interest in the problems posed by the need to co-ordinate the behaviour of many individuals. • Candidates may pick up on Rawls’ observation that the problems of justice cannot be resolved by decisions individuals make separately.
5	25-30	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		At this level, candidates are likely to demonstrate a thorough grasp of the extract, either within the context of the wider passage from which it is drawn or as a standalone passage. They may consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the problems of coordinating many people’s behaviour in order to achieve a desired outcome; • the reason why modern moral dilemmas are also matters of

		<p>concern for mathematicians and economists, and possibly others;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• candidates may make specific reference to other aspects of the specification in order to develop their discussion;• some reference may be made to Schneewind's initial claims that modern moral dilemmas can no longer be universally solved on a religious basis.• Reference to modern ethical concerns, such as abortion or the environment, are likely to be used to support theoretical discussion rather than as a central part of the answer.
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(b) Do you agree with the ideas expressed? Justify your point of view and discuss its implications for understanding religion and human experience. (20)

Level	Mark	AO2
1	1-5	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		<p>At this level candidates are likely to be limited in the extent to which they can draw out the implications of the view that approaches to morality have changed over the years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may make some simple reference to the implications of one or more recent developments in moral philosophy.
2	6-10	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		<p>At this level candidates are likely to draw out more implications of the view that approaches to morality need to adapt over the centuries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they may consider the implications of a return to virtue ethics • some consideration may be given to the success or failure of moral debate about coordinating the behaviour of individuals.
3	11-15	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		<p>At this level, candidates are likely to make an increasing number of links between the implications raised about the need for modern ethics to find new approaches to moral philosophy and to consider how successful these have been.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may consider at greater length the implications for society of the 'new directions' which modern morality has taken. • They may address the possibility that many people nevertheless do continue to hold firm to a traditional approach to ethics. • They may consider the implications of key moral issues mentioned, including the preservation of resources and the environment, population control, and the prevention of nuclear war.
4	16-20	<i>Levels Descriptor</i>
		<p>At this level candidates are likely to make wide ranging observations about the nature of moral philosophy and its development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They may consider the implications of embracing a diverse approach to moral decision making in the modern world. • Some consideration may be offered of the status of religious versus secular moral thinking in the modern world. • Candidates may discuss at length the role of virtue thinking in contemporary ethics. • At this level candidates may address Schneewind's example of the rural retreat and offer further alternative examples for consideration of their implications.

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