

Examiners' Report

June 2013

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS08 01

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Introduction

This Unit, in common with Unit 1, *Religion and Life*, covers topics with regard to Christianity and one other religion. Islam remains by far the most common of the other religions but a significant proportion of candidates answered with respect to the other major religions and some considered other valid alternative views.

The only significant change to the examination structure in this series was the introduction of an additional four marks to be awarded for 'Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar' (SPaG). It was evident that candidates had been instructed by their teachers in the significance of this change.

Many candidates made considerable efforts to demonstrate their command of the grammar rules. As a consequence, the vast majority of candidates achieved at least 'Threshold performance', with most being awarded in the 'Intermediate performance' classification. The only drawback to this, for a significant minority of candidates, was that they spent extra time in Section 1 and often required additional paper. Such candidates found it difficult to complete the examination and therefore lost marks, particularly in Section 4.

Many teachers have taken note of the Principal's Report from last year and candidates demonstrated significant improvements in examination technique that were pleasing to note. This was most significant in the use of both 'The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats' and 'Am I my brother's keeper?' In contrast with last year's examination, these teachings on moral duties and responsibilities were widely-known by the candidates and many used them effectively to support their views and opinions throughout the paper.

Section 1 - Religion: Rights and Responsibilities.

This section of the paper is based on a study of Christianity only. In keeping with the rest of the paper, candidates are required to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the specification
- express their own responses to the issues and questions raised by the specification using reasons and evidence
- evaluate alternative points of view about these issues and questions.

Additionally, for the first time this year, this section was used to assess SPaG. There were four additional marks available for SPaG, therefore candidates could score a maximum of 24 for Section 1 responses, giving a total available mark for the paper of 84. The awarding of SPaG did not affect the *Quality of Written Communication* (QWC), which was assessed in part (c) questions, as usual.

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

This response is given as an example of a mid-range candidate.

The most straightforward way to score full marks in (a) questions is to use the glossary definition.

In 1(a), many candidates went on to demonstrate more detailed understanding of what the Bible is, and, indeed, what it represents to Christians. However, this additional information cannot be awarded additional credit.

The evidence from this year's examination suggests that many candidates have been taught the importance of developing simple reasons, particularly in (b) responses, and many were able to do this effectively.

This candidate's error in (c) was commonly seen across the paper, with many candidates having difficulty in giving more than a superficial reason why some Christians may support genetic engineering. Many candidates went on to discuss fertility treatments, sometimes extensively.

In (d) questions, there was evidence that many candidates continued to develop their reasons. Developed reasons are credited in (b), (c), and (d) questions.

Many candidates chose to answer a question like this by discussing the benefits of the alternatives over the one proposed or *vice versa*. This is perfectly acceptable and was credited as such.

In (d) (ii), this candidate could simply have developed the second simple reason by giving an appropriate example, like genetic engineering.

- (a) The bible is the holy book of Christianity.
- (b) I don't think people should be forced to vote as if they do not believe or have any interest in the topic they are voting for then they may give a random answer which makes the vote unfair. Another reason is that people have human rights and they should therefore be able to decide whether they want to vote or not. If they are forced to vote they are not receiving any freedom.
- (c) Genetic engineering is the process of scientifically producing new offspring using its DNA to create the characteristics that is wanted. Christians may agree with genetic engineering as it can help offspring if they

are going to be ~~the~~ seriously ill or have a disease. Also genetic engineering may be a law in which Christians are made to follow from the teaching that they should follow the laws of ~~the~~ the area they live in. In addition Christians say that it is okay as long as the mother and father are the biological parents meaning that they have used the father's sperm and the ~~woman~~ mother's eggs.

(d)(i) I do not agree ~~by~~ with the statement that 'Christians should always follow the teaching of the Church' as there are many other sources that they can get advice and be taught from. For example the bible provides many statements which may help Christians that want be provided in ~~the~~ a church. Also the church does not help Christians to use their own conscience, they would only learn from the church and other Christians.

(ii) Christians may disagree with me and will say that 'Christians should always follow the teaching of the Church' as they believe that the church is a holy place where they can pray and speak to ~~g~~ God. The Church would also allow them to say that they are taught by other Christians who also follow the teachings of the church. Christians would say that the other Christians help them to make moral decisions on what to do in a situation which other sources like the bible may not provide information for.

(a) A mark scheme response

The vast majority of the candidates examined this year were familiar with the Bible and most gave the glossary definition.

2 marks

(b) A clear personal opinion, supported by two developed reasons

- *If they are not interested they may vote randomly.... developed by... it makes the vote unfair*
- *People have human rights ... developed by... if you are forced to vote it takes away your freedom*

4 marks

(c) 2 marks

Level 1

The (c) response was awarded 2 marks for one simple reason, explaining why some Christians agree with genetic engineering:

- It can cure diseases in the unborn

The example of AIH is not relevant because it refers to infertility treatment, rather than genetic engineering.

The meaning is clear so the response receives the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Unfortunately, in this example the candidate goes on to give incorrect information, which cannot be credited. Initially, they endeavour to prove that Christians should agree with it, because it is the law of the land.

However, the law is currently concerned with monitoring the use and potential abuses of genetic engineering, rather than encouraging people to take advantage of its potential benefits.

Having focused in the initial paragraph on its potential to help to remove disease from the unborn, the candidate then goes on to give a reason why some Christians allow the use of AIH, which was not linked to genetic engineering.

(d) (i) One clear personal opinion *I do not agree...* with one developed and one simple reason

- *There are many other sources of advice... developed by the Bible can help Christians*
- *The Church does not help Christians to use their conscience*

3 marks

(d) (ii) 2 marks

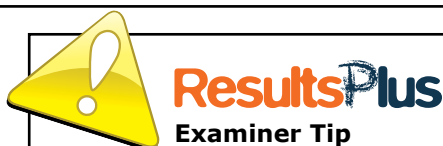
Part (d) (ii) was credited as two simple reasons

- *They are taught by other Christians*
- *The Church can help them in situations not covered by the Bible*

SPaG +3 marks

Intermediate performance

Reasonably accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar and a reasonable range of specialist vocabulary



In (a) questions, use the glossary definition

In (b), (c), and (d) questions, develop your reasons, if you can do this quickly and clearly

This example was included to illustrate a second common problem that occurred in Q1.

This (c) question, in common with questions 4(c), 5(c), and 7(c), specifically asked for only **one** side of the debate - here, over genetic engineering within the Church.

The specification requires that candidates are taught *Different attitudes to genetic engineering and cloning in Christianity and the reasons for them*.

However, this question only required candidates to explain the reasons why some Christians **would** agree. Many candidates demonstrated their understanding of the range of Christian thought on the issue, and therefore often gained no further credit.

(a) The holy book for Christians

(b) Yes i think people should be forced to vote because whoever wins the vote will effect everyone and their rights.

Also if you dont vote and then someone wins the vote that you dont like you cannot complain because you didnt vote.

(c) Some Christians will agree with genetic engineering because ~~if~~ if we have the technology for it then we should use that technology.

Secondly Some Christians will agree because it can help with getting rid of diseases and we should help those in

Need because Jesus was
a healer, so we should heal others

Although some Christians agree
with genetic engineering some
do not this is because
we are playing god ~~messing~~
with people's genes and that
is a ~~really~~ really big sin.

Lastly some Christians will
disagree because although the
short term effect may be
good we don't know
if the long term effect is
and some people might
die from genetic engineering.
which no one wants.

(d) (i) I disagree because
there will be more than
one opinion telling you
different things to do. Secondly
they may not know everything
about your life and might
tell you something wrong.
Lastly it's not Jesus or
God's opinion (like your
conscience) so they won't
always be there.

(ii) People will disagree because the Church will offer many answers you can pick from. Also the Church is up to date so can give moral advice on today's topics. Lastly The Church are the closest people to God so can maybe give better advice.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (a) A glossary definition - 2 marks
- (b) Personal opinion and two simple reasons
- *The result affects everybody*
 - *If you don't vote you can't complain*

2 marks

- (c) One simple and one developed reason

- *We have the technology and we should use it*
- *It gets rid of diseases, developed by Jesus was a healer*

The final reason explains why some Christians do not agree with Genetic Engineering. This cannot be credited because it does not answer the question.

6 marks

Level 3

- (d) (i) Personal opinion and three simple reasons

- *Because there will be more than one opinion telling you different things to do*
- *They may not know the circumstances of your life and so give a wrong answer*
- *It's not God's opinion (clarified by like your conscience)*

3 marks

The candidate's meaning is clear, so the response is awarded the higher of the two available marks for *Quality of Written Communication (QWC)*.

- (d) (ii) Three simple reasons

- *The Church offers many answers you can pick from*
- *The Church is up-to-date and can give advice on today's topics (again this could have been quickly developed by a relevant example)*
- *The Church is closest to God*

3 marks

SPaG + 3 marks

Intermediate performance

Reasonably accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar and a reasonable range of specialist vocabulary.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Identify the attitude that is requested
Keep your response to appropriate reasons

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

This is an example of a response scoring full marks on all sections of the question and SPaG.

(a) Situation Ethics is the idea that Christians should base moral decisions on what is the most loving thing to do.

(b) I don't think a person's conscience comes from God because there have been mistakes for the voice of God, e.g. the Yorks hire claimed God told him to kill prostitutes, therefore God wouldn't do this and a person's conscience doesn't come from God, because God is caring and loving.

I also think this because I am a Christian and believe if I follow the Bible and the Church it is what all Christians believe in and agree ~~on~~, therefore conscience is not from God. Also, if everyone followed their conscience ~~there would be chaos~~ no one would know what sort of behaviour to expect and life would be chaotic, therefore conscience is not God speaking as there's no evidence.

(c) Firstly, some Christians only use the Bible when making moral decisions because the Decalogue: the Ten Commandments says how a Christian ^{should} behave therefore

Christians follow this when making moral decisions as the Bible is God speaking.

Secondly, Christians only use the Bible when making moral decisions because it contains Jesus' teachings and the example he left.

behind, therefore Christians should follow his example and respect his teachings. It also contains the disciples teachings and how Jesus lived. Thirdly, Christians only use the Bible when making moral decisions because they believe it is the voice of God, therefore God is a role model and they should follow what God says and show respect, therefore they follow the Bible. Findly, Christians only use the Bible for making moral decisions because ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ of the authenticity of the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Bible, therefore they should obey what God says when making moral decisions. It also contains the sermon on the Mount, therefore this is important to Christians and an example of how to behave, as it states if you are hit on the cheek you should offer the left, therefore ^{right}disagrees with bullying and violence and helps a Christian make moral decisions.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement because Christians believe in the right to life because of the belief of sanctity of life; life is holy and belongs to God, therefore Christians should support all human rights.

I also agree because family life is important to Christians and the right to family is agreed. Also, you should treat others as you wish to be treated which is a belief of Christianity, therefore you should look

at human rights and decide whether to agree or disagree just as you would want to be affected.

(iii) Someone may disagree with me because Christians disagree with civil partnerships, therefore they should not support all human rights as this would be disrespecting their religion and God.

Someone may also disagree because Christians don't agree with a homosexual raising a family, therefore they should stick to their religion and not be influenced by human rights, therefore believe in your religion and respect what it says ~~about~~ against human rights. Also human rights can cause problems if a catholic ~~wants~~ woman wants to be a priest, therefore they shouldn't follow human rights.



(a) Mark scheme definition - 2 marks

(b) Personal opinion and two developed reasons

- *The conscience can be mistaken, developed by the Yorkshire Ripper claimed God told him to kill prostitutes*
- *As a Christian you should follow the Bible and the Church as it's what all Christians believe, developed by if everyone followed their conscience no-one would know what behaviour to expect*

4 marks

(c) Four simple reasons

- *The Decalogue tells Christians what behaviour to expect*
- *It is God speaking*
- *Jesus' teaching*
- *The example of Jesus*

The meaning is clear, so it gets the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal opinion with three simple reasons

- *Christians believe in the right to life because life is holy and belongs to God*
- *Family life is important to Christians*
- *Treat people as you wish to be treated*

3 marks

(d) (ii) Three simple reasons

- *They disagree with civil partnerships*
- *They don't agree with homosexual parenting*
- *Catholic women can't be priests*

3 marks

High performance

Good quality spelling, punctuation and grammar. Effective use of appropriate specialist terms

SPaG + 4



The candidate's work could have been improved by the use of paragraphs and there are some minor spelling errors.

However, even at the high performance threshold, examiners do not require absolute perfection.

- (a)
- (b) I think a persons conscience
does come from God because
its as if he is telling you
whats the best thing for you
to do.
- Another reason why I think
peoples conscience is from god
is because hes ~~the~~ telling you
know what the consequences
are before you do the things
you choose. Such as, whether
you should steal or not?
- (c) I think some christians only use
the bible when making decisions
because the bible is ~~the~~
a christians book, and true
christians who follow the
rules of ~~of~~ their religions
turn to the bible for
their answers.
- I also think that christians
believe the bible is right,
and looking at the bible will
help them to ~~decide~~ whats
best.
- In the bible it says

about 'the golden rule' and if a Christian is making a moral decision such as abortion or war, then they turn to the bible for their answer and as they believe in the golden rule it's known to love, this is what they follow.

~~I agree with~~
(d) (i) ~~I~~ I believe Christians should support all human rights because people should have the chance to do what they want.

~~My~~ My reason for this is that it should not only be Christians that are allowed to do certain things, other religions and people should have the right to.

(ii) Some Christians may disagree with me because they believe that humans should stick to their religions and that rules are rules.

Another reason why ~~people~~ ^{Christians} may disagree with me is because they believe in their religion.



(a) No answer given therefore no marks

0 marks

(b) Personal opinion and two simple reasons

- *It's as if it's God telling you the best thing to do*
- *You know the consequences before you act*

2 marks

(c) One developed reason

- *It contains religious rules developed by the example of the 'Golden Rule'*

This provides an example of a simple development credited in a (c) response. The simplest way for candidates to gain credit for development is to use a relevant example, as in this case.

The meaning is clear so it gets the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 2

4 marks

(d) (i) Personal opinion and one developed reason

- *People should have the chance to do what they want, developed by not just Christians but other religious people should have the right too*

2 marks

(d) (ii) One simple reason

- Humans should stick to their religion and rules are rules

1 mark

Intermediate performance

Spelling, punctuation and grammar are adequate for the demands of the question but little evidence of specialist terms

SPaG + 2 marks



(c) In effect, this (c) response consists of one developed reason throughout, with the idea that the Bible is the Christian religious book and the example of the Golden Rule.

This candidate's work could have been improved by consideration of other aspects of the scriptures that can help Christians make moral decisions, such as the Decalogue.

Question 3a

Surprisingly, Q3 (a) was one of the more poorly-answered of the (a) questions.

This was due largely to a measure of confusion that appears to exist between 'Conservation - protecting and preserving natural resources and the environment', and 'Stewardship - looking after something so it can be passed on to the next generation.'

This response illustrates an alternative wording to the glossary definition.

(b)

I think transport is a good for
buses when you are there you don't
need the car but only you can get
evidence



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In this definition, credit is given for *protecting, preserving and looking after*, as alternative expressions meaning the same thing.

Where the candidate uses the phrase *conserving the environment*, one mark is given for a partially-correct response.

2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Other than occasions when the word to be defined appears in the glossary definition, teachers should discourage candidates from using the word to be defined as part of the definition, because this is often penalised.

(a)

preserving the land for future
generations to use.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Partially-correct

This was credited as an example of conservation, *preserving the land*. It also references stewardship by referring to keeping it for future generations.

However, two partially-correct responses are not additive and the response still scores only one mark.

1 mark



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Give only a definition.

Additional information cannot be credited.

Question 3(b)(c)(d)

Question 3 (b) (c) (d) had sections specifically concerned with:

- transplant surgery
- how humans cause pollution
- infertility treatment.

This response was specifically included to illustrate how a candidate can successfully "sit on the fence" in a (b) question.

Unfortunately, a significant minority of candidates still insist on providing a "for" and an "against" for this style of question. At worst, the candidate will score zero marks as a result, frequently by using the format "Some people agree with this because...." followed by "Some people disagree with this because....".

Here, there is no personal opinion so the candidate cannot be credited, regardless of the quality of the reasons themselves.

A second format began to appear this year, with candidates choosing to answer (b) questions with the format "Some Christians agree with this because....", followed by "Other Christians disagree with this because....".

Again, in the absence of a personal opinion, this could not be credited.

(b) I think transplant surgery is a good idea because you are helping to save someone and you are being selfless, you would want an organ if you needed one, so if you give an organ to someone that needs one it follows the Golden Rule.

On the other hand I think transplant surgery isn't a good idea because the body after someone has passed away should not be tampered with. We were given our body as a gift, God would have said if he wanted us to donate organs. This just plays God.

(c) Humans cause pollution by utilising cars and public transport this lets out carbon emissions which affects the atmosphere, we are made to walk so we should.

Secondly, we litter which causes the world to be untidy, we need to recycle more, because land-fill sites are overflowing and waste can end up in seas which is potentially dangerous to animals.

Thirdly, we have lots of factories which produce green house gases, this intoxicates the air, causing air pollution and making the ozone layer thinner. It also increases the temperature and melts ice-caps, and ice glaciers, destroying animals habitats and, increasing sea levels.

Finally, we use too many non-renewable resources which contributes to pollution, as once we've used this resource we can't use it again, so we need to use more renewable resources, e.g wind-turbines.

(d) (i) 'Infertility should be available to everybody.'

I agree with the statement because God put us on the earth to procreate, and make christian families, if someone needs help procreating infertility treatment should be allowed.

Secondly, infertility is seen as a disease, so we should be able to find a cure to that disease. That cure being infertility treatment.

Finally God gave us free will, and the knowledge about infertility treatment, so it should be available to everybody.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me because, they think if a couple cannot procreate, its Gods wishes, and he has made them unable to conceive for a reason.

Secondly, infertility treatment goes against God's plans, it's playing God, only God can give or take away a life.

Finally, most infertility treatments like egg or sperm donation involves a third person in the relationship, which goes against one of the ten commandments, 'do not commit adultery'. Also a child has the right to know who its natural parents are.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

There remains significant confusion in the minds of some candidates between damage to the ozone layer and global warming.

This should be addressed, perhaps with the support of the Science Department, during the teaching of this section.

(b) Personal opinion and two developed reasons

This is included as a good example of a candidate who has chosen to "sit on the fence". This is acceptable in (b) questions, as long as it clearly remains their own opinion. However, it does cause difficulties in (d) questions.

- ***I think*** *you are helping to save someone*, developed by *you are being selfless*
- ***On the other hand I think*** (still clearly their opinion) *the body should not be tampered with after death....* developed by *....the body was given as a gift*

The candidate, in effect, has given three simple reasons for each side of the argument.

Fortunately, in this case, the two outlined above can be taken as developments of the earlier simple reason.

4 marks

(c) Four ways

'Explain how' questions are relatively unusual on unit 8. This is a clear example of a 'how' question and the vast majority of candidates were able to give at least four ways in which humans cause pollution.

- *Using cars and public transport* developed by *this gives out carbon emissions* (4 marks)
- *Littering* developed by *landfill sites are overflowing* (4 marks)
- *Factories* developed by *Global Warming* (4 marks)

The development for factories is initially repeating point 1 and the information about the ozone layer is incorrect.

However, *Global Warming* is credited as a different development.

The final point about using too many non-renewable resources would not be credited without a relevant example, since using limestone, for example, for building does not, in itself, contribute to pollution, whereas burning fossil fuels does.

Since developed reasons can be credited in (c) the candidate had provided more than enough information to gain 8 marks.

The meaning is clear, so it gets the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal opinion with one developed and one simple reason

- *God placed us on earth to procreate* developed by *.....and make Christian families* (2 marks)
- *It is curing a disease*

3 marks

(d) (ii) Three simple reasons

- *Infertility treatment is going against God's plan*
- *It is playing God*
- *It may introduce a third person*

Again, this candidate has offered further creditable points but has comfortably achieved full marks.

3 marks

This response illustrates the difficulties faced by those candidates who confuse 'transplant' surgery with 'cosmetic' surgery.

In addition, this year there was a number of candidates who discussed their opinions on whether human foetuses should be transplanted into infertile mothers.

Neither of these misconceptions was credited.

(b) yes in a way its a good idea because it makes people happy and feel confident and especially for models they will need that so they can carry on there job. ~~It can make people~~ but it is also a bad thing so people say i dont understand why.

(c) Humans cause pollution by driving everywhere rather than walking or cycling because it will save alot of CO₂ and not by recycling by causing more rubbish in the world so landfill are getting much larger thats why people are trying to recycle like reusing books and bottles and separate bins for recycling also factories cause alot of it by the smoke that comes out of the chimney and they dump toxic waste in rivers so that causes alot of damaged habitat.

(d) (i) yes it should be available to anyone because it helps alot of people out like if they can have a baby they can still have one to make there relationship a step forward

(iii) Christians will disagree with me because God said that it's wrong to do that because it's basically adoption.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) Whilst the candidate does give a personal opinion, they go on to talk about cosmetic surgery, rather than transplant surgery.

0 marks

(c) Three ways, one of which is developed

- *Driving rather than walking*
- *Not recycling...developed by ...so more waste in the world.*
- *Factories producing smoke*

Toxic waste dumped in rivers is an additional way that could not be credited, because the candidate had already achieved full marks.

This also amply illustrates the fact that even weaker candidates found this question easy to access.

Level 4

8 marks

The meaning is clear, so it gets the higher of the two marks for QWC.

(d) (i) Personal opinion and two simple reasons

- *It helps people*
- *It moves a relationship forward*

2 marks

(d) (ii) These reasons were inaccurate so were not credited.

Christianity broadly supports adoption. In addition, many forms of infertility treatment use eggs/sperm from the biological parents, so it cannot be regarded as adoption.

Had the candidate opted to use Islam rather than Christianity, it would have been credited as one mark for the idea that Allah banned adoption.

0 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

It is important that candidates draw a clear distinction between the beliefs of different religions when giving religious reasons in (d) questions.

This is particularly significant because if the religious reason is not worthy of credit, the marks for the whole of (d) (i) and (d) (ii) combined, cannot go above three marks.

Question 4(a)

4 (a) was generally well-answered by most candidates, with many appreciating both that the environment is our surroundings and that we depend on it for survival.

(a) An alternative wording of the glossary definition

2 marks

(a) The surroundings in which plants and animals live
and on which they depend to live.



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Examiner Comments

The easiest way for candidates to gain full marks in the definition section is by giving the glossary definition.

This may not always correspond exactly with the way in which the word is commonly used.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

In (a) questions,
use the glossary definition.

This response is included as an example of the consequences of confusing key word definitions.

If the candidate had merely written the definition as "preserving and protecting natural resources" this item would have been a 'rubric item'.

A 'rubric item' is one where the candidate has answered a mix of parts from each of the two questions in a section. Since they can only be credited for either Q3 **or** Q4, not a mixture of both, the examiner would award the maximum number of marks from those achieved for **either** Q3 or Q4.

In this case, the candidate clearly states their intention to define *environment* so it gained no marks.

(a) Environment is preserving and protecting natural resources
and the environment.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(a) This is a definition of conservation.

0 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

The Religious Studies definitions may differ
from the way the word is commonly used.

Question 4(b)(c)(d)

Question 4 (b) (c) (d) considered:

- *stewardship*
- *why some people from a religion other than Christianity support fertility treatment*
- *the problem of scarce resources.*

It was by far the least popular question on the paper and also the question that provoked the most rubric infringements.

In part (d), many candidates frequently used 'scarce' to mean 'fewer'.

This response illustrates the way in which a mid-range candidate dealt with this range of topics successfully.

It is vital that candidates are familiar with the terminology used in the specification, in this case *The scarcity of natural resources and how this poses a threat to the future of the planet.*

Those candidates who understood the use of scarce resources in this context, often had little difficulty in achieving full marks for part(d).

Generally, more-able candidates took *scarce resources* to refer to non-renewable resources, such as oil and coal. They contrasted the dangers of using these resources with the benefits their use brings to society.

(b) I don't think humans are the stewards of the planet because majority of people living on this earth damage the environment by causing pollution and human waste. Also people are leaving the earth in a more disastrous way than before which means they aren't good stewards.

(c) Muslims agree with infertility treatments because it gives hope to people. ~~They~~ ^{It} can bring happiness and show couples that there are ways on having children and also the fact that ~~they~~ ^{there is a way} ~~can have~~ to make that come true. Secondly IVF gives childless couples children even if it isn't naturally, they still have that opportunity to have their own child. Another reason is that the egg and sperm are taken from the mother and father so it will be biologically offspring of its parents. Lastly no

eggs are wasted in this process so they are not wasting human eggs.

(d) (i) No, I don't think you have to use scarce amount of natural resources ^{for the world} to improve because if you use too much natural resources then they might run out. Also just by cutting down the amount of pollution we give off could improve the world.

(ii) Some christians may disagree with me because they may think to be a good steward they need to use a lot of natural resources so they can better the world. Also by using natural resources they're already improving the world.



(b) Personal opinion and two simple reasons

- *People damage the earth by polluting it*
- *It's getting worse!*

2 marks

(c) Two reasons

- *It gives hope*
- *The eggs and sperm are from the mother and father*

Eggs are, in fact, "wasted", because drugs are used to increase ovulation. Not all of these eggs are fertilised or implanted, so this was not credited as a reason.

The meaning is clear, therefore the higher of the two marks for QWC is given.

Level 2

4 marks

(d) (i) Personal opinion and two simple reasons

- Natural resources will run out
- Reducing pollution would improve the world

This candidate's response illustrates exactly the problem faced by many candidates, not always the weakest candidates, in attempting this (d) question.

Many translated "scarce" and if they answered "yes" became confused. Although this candidate also does not understand the use of the word "scarce", they answer "No" and go on to explain that natural resources generate pollution and that harms the world.

2 marks

(d) (ii) One simple reason

- *Using natural resources is already improving the world*

Many candidates, like this one, try to give a religious reason by inserting "Christian" in a sentence. This simply states an opinion that some Christians may hold without giving a reason for it.

Had the candidate given a reason, eg 'they believe people are more important than the environment', this would have been credited.

1 mark



Make sure you know what the specification says you should know!

This response illustrates some of the difficulties candidates found in Q4.

Note that this candidate does not include a suggestion of a religious reason, so even had they provided six valid reasons, three on each side, it could not have gone beyond three marks in total.

It is very important that candidates are aware that they need to include at least **one** specifically religious reason in either (d) (i) or (d) (ii).

It is normally not sufficient to mention vaguely, 'religious people'. Candidates are well-advised to state clearly 'Christians/Muslims etc would agree/disagree because....' in the appropriate part of the question.

It is quite acceptable to give **more** than one religious reason. In fact, all six reasons can be religious, as long as the candidate makes it clear that (d) (i) is also their own opinion.

(b) I do think that Humans are stewards of the planet because in Religious belief for example Muslims, ~~at present~~ were all taught by the Quran that they should take care of the Earth that God has given them and that they should ~~not~~ not cause any harm to what Allah has given us. My other reason is that not only are we affecting our childrens and family's life from greenhouse gases and Burning coal or ~~smoking~~ Smoking, but we are damaging ourselves and the future of Earth and man kind. We as protectors and the very clever Species should be able to figure out ways in which Gas, Electricity and coal can be produced without harming the environment, planet and most importantly our selves.

(c) Infertility Treatment is when your not able to have babies and so need help from others to have a baby, Muslims believe that Infertility Treatment is wrong and ~~and~~ that should never be used ~~at~~ at any circumstances.

Muslims believe that Allah 'God' gave us very healthy bodies that are able to produce babies and do everything. You should not be allowed to go off and get eggs or Sperm from other people because you want a child.

If a Muslim is not able to have children then they should leave it as that because in the Quran it says that Allah is not allowing this person to have children because they are not able to either take care of this baby or want have the facilities to support it. In the other hand if a women was able to have a baby but got a disease, and is desperate to have a baby then the Quran allows them to have Infertility Treatment.

(d)(i) People should start using natural resources like oil ~~because~~ and stop burning coal which is producing greenhouse effects, because it helps the Earth function better and less diseases will spread, God gave us our brain and natural resources so that we would be able to create things that would have no affect and problem with the Earth and the animals, plants and humans. My second reason is that if the world continues to use burned coal or gas, then slowly but surely, the Earth will be too hot to live in and ~~plants~~ plants will have less water to produce oxygen and food and so animals will die and get ~~close~~ close to extinction and it will be very hard for us to live.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they might say that we have been using these techniques like burning coal using gases for over 50 years or so and all the way through it, nothing really serious has happened, it's helped us create medicine and create amazing entertainment for children and adults. Their second reason that they might disagree with me is that we don't only ~~burn~~ burn coal and use gas to create electricity, but we use turbines for wind which only work Spring and winter, because summer hardly has any wind, ~~and~~ and we use solar panels to create energy from the sun.

(b) The personal opinion agrees that humans are stewards of the planet and the candidate gives one developed reason.

- *Muslims are taught that they should take care of the earth, developed by and not cause harm to what Allah has given*

Unfortunately, the candidate then gives a well-articulated reason why we do not act as stewards of the planet. Then they consider the harmful effects caused by the extraction of fossil fuels, rather than the harm they cause when we use them.

2 marks

(c) One valid reason

- The idea in the final few lines that infertility can be caused by disease and then it should be cured

The other points all argue that Muslims think infertility treatment is wrong and so cannot be credited. The meaning is clear so it receives the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 1

2 marks

(d) (i) No relevant reasons

The candidate is clearly confused by what constitutes a natural resource. They also seem to think that coal and gas are "dangerous" and oil is "cleaner".

The second reason does not agree with the opinion and cannot be credited.

0 marks

(d) (ii) Two simple reasons

- *We've been using them for a long time and nothing too serious has happened*
- *It has helped us make medicines*

Where a candidate has misunderstood a quotation and not scored any marks for (d) (i) examiners will credit any relevant, correct reasons in (d) (ii) on one (could be either) side of the argument. Although wind and the sun are natural resources, they are by no means scarce (except perhaps in the UK!)

2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Be specific with religious reasons: *Christians agree because...*

Question 5(a)

Most candidates dealt with Q5 (a) very well. Usually, they included the idea of no wars or conflict, to score two marks.

This is a "model" response to the question.

(a) the Ending of war throughout the whole world.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) Correct answer
The glossary definition
2 marks

(a) World peace means that the world becomes peaceful and there should only be certain rules and everyone unites. unites together.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Partially-correct
An alternative wording of
"Everybody getting along"
1 mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

For full marks, examiners require the idea of an end to war/conflict/hostility.

Question 5(b)(c)(d)

Question 5 (b) (c) (d) concerned:

- religious people and bullying
- Christian pacifist attitudes
- the idea that some things are unforgiveable.

This response demonstrates how less-able candidates can be credited in each part of the question.

(b) I think all religious people help to stop bullying by telling them, some of teachings from Jesus, the Golden Rule. Also running places like 'Youth clubs'.

But then I don't agree because bullying still happens today. Ten children commit suicide from bullying every year. So this doesn't that there doing 'enough' to stop bullying.

(c) Christians will not fight in wars because this is breaking one of the Ten Commandments - Do Not Kill.

Secondly, Christians know that war is wrong! because war doesn't solve anything.

Thirdly, there is no need for war, people dying so no reason.

Finally, it's a sin against God to kill so Christians believe they must not fight in wars.

(d) (i) I don't agree because Jesus told us to forgive 70x7.

Also forgiveness is part of life, and that you should always forgive.

Thirdly, it's one of the Ten Commandments.

(ii) People may disagree with me because they may say "How could you forgive someone who has ^{someone done} murdered?"

Secondly, people will find it too hard to forgive someone for what they have done wrong!

(b) Personal opinion and two developed reasons

- *They tell people the teachings of Jesus, developed by the Golden Rule*
- *It still happens today, developed by ten children commit suicide every year*

Many candidates chose to approach this question by considering a range of Christian teachings and how they could be employed to reduce bullying.

The candidate 'sits on the fence'. The second reason, although still their opinion, is from the opposite point of view.

4 marks

(c) One reason

- Do not kill

The next two paragraphs do not contain Christian reasons. The final paragraph does not develop the first so the mark remains 2.

The meaning is clear so it gets the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 1

2 marks

(d) (i) Personal opinion and one reason

- Jesus told us to forgive 70 x 7

The candidate is clearly aware of the need to give three simple reasons in (d) (i) but finds it difficult to express their views with reference to the statement.

This would be enough to be credited as a Christian reason, even though it does not specifically mention Christians.

1 mark

(d) (ii) One reason

- Murder is unforgiveable

1 mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Reasons should be linked to the question stem.

This response, by contrast, is included as a very good illustration of how little writing is required to achieve full marks.

It also provides a useful model of layout for examination success, with new reasons clearly highlighted by the use of a new paragraph.

Part (d) (ii) also serves to illustrate the fact that, on some occasions, candidates begin their reason with the development and then give the reason. This is quite acceptable.

(b) Yes, I do because they teach that violence with cause is sinful, so people should not do it knowing that they will go to Hell.

- Also they teach people that everyone is equal & God made everyone in the image of God, therefore ~~there~~ no-one is superior nor inferior, which people should listen to.

(c) Some Christians refuse to fight in wars because they're pacifists. They believe Jesus said 'those that live by the sword, die by the sword' so they believe us wrong.

- Jesus also said 'love thy neighbour' and by fighting in wars you are not ~~being~~ being loving towards people.

- It is the fifth commandment to not kill, therefore going to war is sinful, so they will go to Hell.

- Jesus also said 'turn the other cheek' and as he's Son of God everyone must follow his teachings.

- Others may fight in wars as the

Church says its ok as its the Body of Christ, it must be followed

- Also St Paul said to follow the ~~ex~~ government therefore they should fight as ~~but~~ he's a follower of Jesus.

(d) (i) I disagree because I am Muslim and I believe you can not ask God for forgiveness unless you have been so on earth.

- The Hadith shows Muhammed forgiving and reconciling after battles, therefore you should ~~be~~ ~~prope~~ ~~of~~ ~~and~~. *

- Lastly the Quran says God is compassionate towards sinners, therefore you should be too, as it's the word of God.

~~X~~ follow this as he is
the profit of God.

(ii) Some may disagree with me, because for example murderers have 'played God' which is the worse thing they can do, as God only should decide when life is created or ended.

- I am Christian and I believe that people who have sinned and gone against ~~the~~ the rules to live by (The Decalogue) deserve to go to Hell.

- A person who continues to commit crimes ~~is~~ ^{is} a danger to society and ~~therefore~~ doesn't deserve forgiveness.

(b) Personal opinion and two developed reasons

- *Violence without due cause is sinful, developed by if you do it you will go to hell*
- *Everyone is made in the image of God, developed by therefore no-one is superior or inferior*

This is an example of the most common approach by candidates who did this well. They consider two religious teachings and apply them to bullying.

4 marks

(c) Four reasons

- They are pacifists
- Jesus said "Those who live by the sword die by the sword"
- Love thy neighbour
- Do not kill (*Do not murder is acceptable*)

Level 4

8 marks

The meaning is clear so it gets the higher of the two marks for QWC.

(d) (i) Personal opinion and three simple reasons

- *You can't ask for forgiveness if you haven't been forgiving*
- *The Hadith show Muhammad being forgiving*
- *The Church says God is compassionate*

3 marks

(d) (ii) Two reasons, with one developed

- *Only God should decide when life begins and ends ...developed by....so murder is playing God*
- *Sinners deserve to go to hell*

A third creditable reason was included but could not be credited.

- Criminals are a danger to society and don't deserve forgiveness

3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Use paragraphs and connectives to help the examiner to see when you begin a new reason or explanation.

Question 6(a)

This question was generally well-answered by candidates, with many choosing to give a recognisably 'Christian' definition, rather than the glossary definition.

(a) Forgiveness is the pardon of someone's sins
that they have committed.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Religious version of "pardoning someone for what they have done wrong"

2 marks

This response is included to demonstrate the difficulties of using the keyword to define the keyword.

(a) forgiving somebody for an action they
have committed.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Partially-correct

Forgiving someone

Again, the candidate failed to score full marks by using the word required to define the keyword.

1 mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Avoid the use of the keyword itself in the definition.

Question 6(b)(c)(d)

Q6 (b) (c) (d) considered:

- conflict caused by religion in the family
- how the United Nations (UN) works for world peace
- religion as a cause of war.

There was some evidence that candidates possessed a better understanding of the role of the UN in promoting world peace, than in previous examinations.

However many candidates had a very general understanding of the UN, and talked about aid, for example, without linking it with world peace. Others were clearly more familiar with the work of a religious organisation for world peace and found it difficult to apply this knowledge to the UN.

The work of this candidate is included primarily to illustrate the way in which many candidates score full marks for the work of the UN for world peace.

It also provides an example of a fully-developed reason in (d) (i).

(b) I think that Religion does Cause Conflict Within families. This is because if the parents are strict followers of a religion, they may force their children to be that religion, which may cause the ~~the~~ children to rebel against their parents, or cause upset if the children want to follow a different religion. Also, if two people of a different religion (catholic and muslim for example) want to get married, conflict between the two ~~could be caused~~ and each family could be caused, as one religion may not agree with inter-faith marriages, and or disagreements in where the wedding is held (which holy place) could arise.

(c) The United Nations works for world peace in various different ways. One way is that the countries of the world (not all of them at the minute) sign an agreement - saying they will

Stay at Peace and Not go to War With each other.

Another way is that the UN can impose Sanctions (cut off trade) on Countries that are threatening to cause Conflict/Violence or Wars with another Country. This ensures that the People of that Country cannot Prepare for War, and restores Calm and Peace to the World.

Furthermore, the UN has its own army (and can get help off all its included Countries) which allows it to defend those who need help in War struck Countries, and stop those causing the War from making further damage.

Moreover, the UN organises to have meetings with all the included Countries Leaders, where issues can be addressed and ideas can be put in place to ensure there is always Peace between everyone.

(d) (i) ~~Also~~ I do not agree with this statement because there are many things that cause wars, other than religious reasons. One is for resources; a Country might invade another Country because it has something they want (for example, oil). Another reason is because of Political differences; different Political groups/Parties within a Country may fight to be the Leader of the Country, or the People of a Country may rebel against their Leader(s), or two Countries may go to

War because their government have huge differences/disagreements.

(iii) Some people, however, may disagree with me because they are religious. Catholics, for example, believe in World Peace and that we should all ~~each~~ treat each other how we ~~should~~ would treat ourselves (the Golden Rule). Therefore, if we were all Catholic and shared this belief, we would not fight or cause wars (Catholics also believe wars are wrong under all circumstances), as it would go against our religion to do so.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Personal opinion and two developed reasons

- *They force their children to follow their religion, developed by the idea that the children may rebel and want to follow a different religion*
- *Inter-faith marriage, developed by disagreements about where the wedding should be held*

4 marks

(c) Three ways, with one developed

- *Countries sign an agreement not to go to war with each other*
- *They can impose sanctions, developed by the country therefore cannot prepare for war*
- *Can deploy troops to defend its members*

The meaning is clear, so it receives the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal opinion, one fully developed reason

- *Other things cause wars, developed by the example of resources,*

fully developed by a specific example of a resource that could cause conflict. In this case, oil.

3 marks

(d)(ii) One developed reason

- *The Golden Rule, developed by we would not fight or cause wars*

The second point is inaccurate as all Catholics do not believe wars are wrong under all circumstances. Rather, the Catholic Catechism upholds the 'Just War' theory.

2 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

This again illustrates the value to the candidate of providing specific examples to develop their ways or reasons.

This response is included primarily to illustrate a common problem in (d) (ii) responses. The aim of the (d) questions is to give the candidates the opportunity to demonstrate that they can consider both sides of a debateable issue and reach a valuable personal opinion.

In some cases, the candidates focus their reasons in (d) (ii) on refuting their own reasons suggested in (d) (i), rather than maintaining a focus on the quotation given for debate.

(b) I think religion can cause conflict in families. This is because in the Bible being homosexual is wrong. It is against God and in a Christian family, if the child turns out to be homosexual, it may cause conflict in the family. Also if a family member decides to follow a different religion from the family, it may cause conflict as well.

(c) The United Nations work for world peace by going out to different parts of the world with or without conflict and try help draw conclusion in a peaceful mean. They also educate people to reduce the chance of wars happening.

(d) (i) I don't agree with the statement this is because I don't think that religion causes war. Sometimes wars happen because of misunderstanding and most the time it is simply because of someone's selfishness. Another reason in why I don't think religion causes war is because in the Bible ~~it teaches~~ and the decalogue, it teaches Christians that it is wrong to kill.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because some Christians in some parts of the world would shoot homosexuals simply because they think it is going against God's will. However they are mostly fundamentalists and majority of Christians would not do that.

(b) Personal opinion with one developed and one simple reason

- *In the Bible being homosexual is wrong, developed by if a child turns out to be homosexual this may cause conflict*
- *Following a different religion*

3 marks

(c) Two ways

- Help bring things to a peaceful conclusion
- Educate people to reduce the chances of war happening

There is currently a Global UN initiative called *Education First*. In this case, education was clearly linked with promoting world peace, rather than left as an aim of the UN in isolation.

The meaning is clear so it gets the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 2

4 marks

d) (i) Personal opinion and two simple reasons

- Wars happen because of misunderstanding and selfishness
- The Bible teaches Christians it is wrong to kill

2 marks

(d) (ii) In (dii), the candidate should be arguing the case for those who believe there would be no war if everyone was the same religion. Instead, he considers why some Christians ignore 'Do not kill' in a context totally outside the demands of the question.

0 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should be encouraged to focus (d) (ii) responses on the statement from the question.

It is often helpful for less-able candidates to write the statement at the top of the page before starting to answer it, to help them to remain focused.

Question 7(a)

Few candidates had difficulty with the meaning of 'capital punishment'. It remains a topic that engages candidates' interest.

The vast majority of candidates who attempted this definition scored two marks.

(a) Capital punishment is a legal ~~form~~ punishment by death



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Alternative wording of legally killing criminals.

2 marks

Those candidates who did not gain full marks generally gained one mark.

They knew that capital punishment was killing criminals but did not make it clear that it was a punishment exacted by the courts.

(a) Killing people for doing wrong. For example an eye for an eye.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Partially-correct

1 mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Keyword definitions often have two key ideas: both are required for full marks.

Question 7(b)(c)(d)

Q7 (b) (c) (d) asked candidates to consider:

- the importance of reform as a type of punishment
- why some Christians drink alcohol
- if the law should ever be broken.

In general, this question was well-answered, with part (c) being particularly strong.

However, as is usually the case, there was increasing evidence that a significant proportion of candidates were under pressure to complete the examination in the allocated time and the number of rubric and mis-reading errors increased as a result.

This response is included primarily to illustrate the importance of stating a personal opinion in (d) (i).

This candidate begins with *Christians believe...* and begins (d) (ii) with *On the other hand...*

There is nothing to suggest which of the two views the candidate supports. In the absence of a personal opinion (d) (i) cannot be credited. However when this is the case (d) (ii) is credited as normal.

(b) Yes I do think that it is important to reform criminals because it allows them to see how the affected someone else's life. This means that they are more unlikely to go back and commit the same crime again.

In addition to this, by reforming criminals it gives them a second chance at life and allows them to try and live as a new person. This is important because they can then be brought back into society and be accepted as an individual.

(c) Some Christians allow the drinking of alcohol because at the last supper, God gave his disciples wine to remember his blood and told them to drink it. This means that when Christians take their Holy communion, they should be able to drink wine in order to remember the blood that he shed for their sins.

Secondly, some Christians allow the drinking of alcohol because in the Bible it says 'drink but don't be

drunk'. This shows that alcohol is okay in moderation and you can drink, but must be aware of your surroundings.

Thirdly, in the Bible, St Paul told Timothy to drink wine in order to help his digestion. This suggests to Christians that alcohol is accepted for medical reasons as it is shown by one of Jesus' disciples.

Finally, Jesus turned water into wine in the Bible, and gave it to his people to drink. This shows Christians that Jesus believed that it was okay to drink wine and ~~the~~ alcohol.

(d) (i) Christians believe that the law should never be broken because in the Bible, God taught to 'Obey the laws of the land'. By breaking the law, you are disobeying what God has said.

Secondly, the law is based on the decalogue in the Bible that all Christians follow. By disobeying and breaking the law, you are committing a sin.

Finally, by breaking the law when people broke the law in the Bible, they were severely punished by God. This means Christians should not break the law either.

(ii) On the other hand, some people may disagree with this as breaking the law may be the most loving and safe thing to do; for example stealing a bomb from a Terrorist.

Secondly, some people may disagree ~~there~~ in cases of Euthanasia. If a relative ~~marry~~ ~~when~~ is in severe pain and they

turn of the relatives life support machine, this will be breacking the laws, however it is because they wanted to do what was best for their loved one

Finally, people may disagree because laws may need to be broken in order to stop a dictatorship. For example when the Germans helped hide Jews ~~the~~ such as Ann Frank from Hitler.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Personal opinion and two developed reasons

- *It shows them how they affected someone else's life, developed by they are less likely to commit the crime again*
- *It gives them a second chance, developed by they can be brought back into society*

4 marks

(c) One developed and two simple reasons

- *Jesus drank wine at the Last Supper, developed by drinking wine at Holy Communion*
- The Bible teaches moderation
- St Paul told Timothy to drink a little wine for his stomach (it can be used for medical reasons)

The meaning is clear, so it receives the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Though this contains valid reasons, it talks about "Christians believe...".

There is no personal opinion, therefore it cannot be credited.

0 marks

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

Examiners do not use this mistake to inflict double punishment, they do credit (d) (ii).

- *It may be the most loving thing to do, this is developed by a relevant example (stealing a bomb from a terrorist)*
- Though it breaks the law it is best for their loved one

3 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Clearly state your personal opinion in both (b) and (d) responses.

The work of this candidate is included in the report to illustrate the mistake made most frequently by candidates, that results in them losing valuable marks.

In this case, the candidate lost three marks that could not be awarded for (d) (i) because of the rubric error.

Particularly for less-able candidates it may prove helpful if, having chosen which of the two questions they wish to answer in a section, they then cross through the question they are not answering. This will help to reduce the number of candidates losing marks for rubric-error.

(b) yes i think it is important to reform criminals because if all we do is retribute they will not realise what they have done & they will only hate the government more for punishing them.

B: If we ~~re~~ reform them they will be less likely to reoffend and they know how to be a better person and function as a member of society. A reformed criminal can be an example to other criminals.

(c) Some Christians allow drinking alcohol because during the last supper Jesus drank wine with his ~~disciples~~ disciples "...and in the same manner he took the wine and said, drink this is my blood remember me..."

Jesus first miracle was turning water into wine during a wedding. It was OK back in Jesus's time why is it bad now?

Culture.

because modern day drinkers are shown by the media as teens with no GCSE's who go around spitting obscenities & rioting. This stereotype has made its way into the church and the teachings.

Some Christians believe drinking is OK because of the way in which they were raised.

The bible says "keep away from intoxicating substances". So many Christians follow only the bible and they believe alcohol is bad. The wine in the bible was never specified if it was alcoholic or not, so some Christians think

OK. Abraham had to be clothed by his son in the bible after getting drunk, so this shows as a Christian you can drink.

(d) (i) No, capital punishment is there to punish those that have killed, raped and done other very horrible things to allow them to keep their right to life after the things they have done is mockery. They are called human rights, where you take another's life for no just reason you are no longer a human.

Capital punishment is also there to protect yourself, Muslims believe

Capital punishment is OK if the person is a threat to humans & Islam.

(iii)

Some Christians may disagree with me because the Bible says "thou shalt not kill" (from 10 commandments). So taking away the person's life is still murder & we shouldn't stoop to their level.

Some people will disagree because the person being killed could be innocent, framed or a scapegoat used by the real perpetrators or the government. My dad once said "I would rather let 100 guilty men free than 1 innocent man die."



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) Personal opinion and two developed reasons
- *If we only use retribution they won't realise what they've done wrong, developed by and hate the government more*
 - *Reform means they are less likely to reoffend, developed by and will function as a member of society*

4 marks

- (c) One developed and one simple reason
- *At the last supper Jesus took wine with his disciples, developed by "do this in remembrance of me"*
 - *He turned water into wine*

Level 3

6 marks

The end of this response is "out of clip". Candidates must keep within the designated space for their answer.

The meaning is clear so it would receive the higher of the two marks for QWC.

- (d) (i) This is a rubric infringement

The quotation for Q7 is *The law should never be broken* and for Q8 it is *No religious person should ever support capital punishment*. This is clearly a response to Q8.

0 marks

- (d) (ii) Rubric

0 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Answer **all** of one question. Do not "pick and mix".

Question 8(a)

Q8 (a) asked candidates to define *reform*, one of the theories of punishment outlined by the specification. The vast majority of candidates were able to answer this correctly, to achieve two marks.

To achieve full marks for this (a) definition candidates were required to show both the idea of changing the criminal and that the change would reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

(a) Reform is helping a criminal become educated with qualifications so they don't turn back to crimes.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) An alternative wording to the mark scheme definition "The idea that punishments should try to change criminals so they will not offend again". The idea of change (*get qualifications*) with the idea that it prevents further offending.

2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

When learning definitions, think about whether there are two key ideas you need to mention.

Where candidates failed to gain marks in 8 (a) it was often because they confused reform with one of the other theories of punishment, most often retribution, as illustrated by this candidate.

(a) Reform is belief that a criminal should be punished so much that they will never commit again



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

(a) A definition of another keyword, in this case *retribution*

0 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Be careful when learning key words that share common ideas, it is very easy to get confused!

Question 8(b)(c)(d)

Q8 (b) (c) (d) asked the candidates to consider:

- whether drug use is a problem in society
- why society needs laws
- and evaluate the statement *No religious person should support capital punishment.*

As in Q7, this was generally well-answered, with (c) being particularly strong. Many candidates demonstrated a sound understanding of the role of law in supporting the smooth functioning of society.

This response is included to provide an example of a less-able candidate's answers for this question.

(b) I think that drug use is a problem in society ~~there~~ because drugs can cause ~~too~~ many problems. Also they are used too ~~much~~ often in society. I also think that ~~the~~ Christians would agree with me because they believe that we shouldn't go against the law but using drugs is.

(c) Society needs laws so that ~~the~~ the world is more equal and those have done bad should be punished for it.

Also if we had no laws then people wouldn't know between what was right

and wrong.

Also people know its okay to do bad things like steal or hurt someone because they wouldn't get punished for it.

Also the laws are there to make sure people are treated equally like God wanted.

I agree because only God should have the right to give and take away life. Christians would agree with me because God said we should treat each other as we want to be treated.

(ii) Some may disagree with me because Jesus had the death penalty.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Personal opinion and two simple reasons

- *They are used too often*
- *They are illegal*

2 marks

(c) Three simple reasons

- *To increase equality*
- *To punish wrongdoers*
- *To teach what is right and wrong*

The additional paragraphs were repetitive and gained no further credit.

The meaning is clear, so it receives the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 3

6 marks

(d) (i) Personal opinion and two simple reasons

- *Only God should take life*
- *Treat each other as you wish to be treated*

2 marks

(d) (ii) No creditable reasons

The fact that Jesus was crucified does not make crucifixion acceptable or creditable.

0 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Practice your time management

This response is included to illustrate the fact that the vast majority of the candidates completed the examination within the time allowed, and often scored highly across all four sections of the paper.

This is a good example of the 'Golden Rule' being applied correctly. A number of candidates suggested that, using the Golden Rule, if you murdered someone it meant *you wanted to be killed*. Teachers need to be aware of this common mis-application.

(b) I do think drug use is a problem in society as on the health side of problems you have countless people dying or gaining medical problems through the use of drugs. This can also lead to more stress on hospitals as they try care for ~~drug~~ users in need.

Drug users cause a large ~~social~~ problem as well as they can be violent and be a risk to members of the public and they also put more stress on the police force.

(c) Society needs laws as all advanced civilisations need organising otherwise everything would turn to chaos as people would be murdered, shops would be broken into and society would basically come to the point where it has had a removal of all its human rights.

Society also needs laws as they ~~are~~ serve as protection for the weak and vulnerable, something that many religions agree need upholding as the weak and vulnerable cannot protect themselves.

(d)(i) I agree that no religious person should support capital punishment as it is the teachings of all religions ~~to~~ to treat others well. Especially with Christians as they teach to forgive those who have wronged you no matter what they did. Christians also teach the Golden rule in that you should treat others how you want to be treated and therefore you shouldn't kill someone. They also believe it is only God's right to take away life.

(ii) Some people may disagree as they think that certain people such as rapists or murderers are so bad that they cannot possibly be forgiven, even by God, and so capital punishment is the only logical solution.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Personal opinion and two developed reasons

- *It causes death and medical problems, developed by it places stress on the NHS*
- *It leads to violence, developed by it places stress on the police service*

4 marks

c) Two developed reasons

- *They organise society developed by they maintain human rights*
- *They protect the weak developed by religions agree because they can't protect themselves*

The meaning is clear, so it receives the higher of the two marks for QWC.

Level 4

8 marks

(d) (i) Personal opinion and three simple reasons

- *Christians teach to forgive those who wrong you*
- *Golden Rule*
- *Only God can take a life*

3 marks

(d) (ii) One developed reason

- *Some crimes are too bad to be forgiven, developed by murder*

2 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Make sure that you understand how to apply the Golden Rule.

Paper Summary

It is important to explain to candidates that their work will be marked on a computer screen, so it is important to keep their writing within the defined areas.

Please also encourage them to state clearly in the body of the script if they have continued their answer on additional paper, so that this can also be taken into account for the final mark.

Since almost all scripts are now scanned and marked on-line it is also important to encourage all candidates to use black ink. Blue writing sometimes scans very faintly.

Whilst an improvement in candidate performance was evident this year, there is a number of general points arising from the examination that teachers should note in order to improve candidates' performance.

- Time-management remains difficult for many candidates and not just for the less-able. The exam lasts for 90 minutes, giving candidates approximately 1 minute per mark and 10 minutes reading and checking time. Those candidates who were highly motivated to write extensively in early sections of the paper inevitably suffered when it came to Section 4. This was particularly the case this year, because of the requirement to assess SPaG in this section.
- The space provided on the paper is more-than-adequate for the vast majority of candidates to complete a response. Often, those candidates who required extra paper had already scored full marks. Again, the poor time-management of these candidates often resulted in a fall in performance later in the paper.
- A choice of two questions is offered in each section, with candidates required to respond either to the odd-numbered question or to the even-numbered question. Candidates who choose sections from each of the two questions will not receive full credit for the section, because the weaker responses will not be credited in this rubric infringement. Candidates are required to indicate at the top of each section the question they have answered by placing a cross in the appropriate box. Candidates should be reminded to do so as part of their examination preparation.
- The paper is marked on-screen, so it essential that candidates write in black ink. This ensures clear reproduction during scanning.
- Part (b) questions require the candidate's own opinion, backed by two relevant reasons. A number of candidates lost marks by not stating clearly their own opinion on the matter.
- Part (c) questions are generally 'Explain how' or 'Explain why'. They expect the candidate to demonstrate knowledge and understanding for AO1. In part (c) responses, there is a tendency for candidates to attempt to gain credit by using 'one size fits all' responses. For example, *"This is said in the Qur'an/Bible/Torah and Muslims/Christians/Jewish people will obey this because they believe it is 'the word of God'."* Whilst weaker candidates were occasionally able to achieve improved marks with material of this nature, sometimes, it distracted them from the question in hand. Candidates should be encouraged to focus on the development of the reason, rather than on the source of its authority.
- Some candidates continued to use Catholic Christianity as a religion other than Christianity, although this year there was a marked decrease in this tendency. A number of candidates also disregarded the requirement to give 'non-religious' views in some sections. Candidates should be encouraged to identify the 'command words' in the question and adapt their response to fit the question stem.
- In part (d) questions, a number of candidates ignored the structure provided both by the question and the space left for the response. Less-able candidates, in particular,

often used the second part of the question to proffer arguments to refute the arguments offered in (d) (i), rather than to dispute whether the statement should be agreed with or disagreed with. A significant number of candidates lost marks because they failed to provide a valid, specifically religious, reason either to support or to contradict the statement.

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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