

Examiners' Report

June 2015

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS01 01

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June 2015

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Introduction

The specification continues to be a very popular course as teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both interests and educates young people. The variety of choice within the new specification allows teachers to teach the course that most suits their students and as such the examination is unique.

Unit 1 covers both Christianity and one other religion. This unit allows study of Christianity, the majority religion in the UK, but also allows study of another religion which is increasingly important in today's society. The course engages the interest of young people. It addresses many moral and spiritual issues affecting young people today and importantly it fulfils all the requirements for the present Key Stage 4 statutory Religious Education.

It was especially pleasing to see that candidates were making relevant use of contemporary issues in their responses.

The candidates have achieved a wide range of performance levels as would be expected from an examination with mainly whole cohort entry.

The mean on this paper showed a slight increase from last year possibly as a result of year 11 only entry. However it might also be as a result of increased awareness of exam technique.

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

This question is based on section one in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

Question 1 was much more popular with candidates than question 2.

a) questions ask for either a definition or examples. 1a asks for a definition of natural evil. Examples without the definition were only awarded partial marks as per the mark scheme.

b) This was about whether people should have a religious upbringing. Answers describing a religious upbringing which did not link to the question gained no marks. Answers needed to include a personal opinion and better candidates used examples from religious texts as development of opinion.

c) This question required candidates to outline how religious experiences lead to belief in God. Most candidates were able to describe religious experiences but many did not link them to belief in God. There were some excellent responses showing that many teachers were introducing candidates to modern and AS style religious arguments.

d) The question needed candidates to evaluate a statement about whether suffering is proof that God does not exist. It was possible to use a wide range of material to respond to the question. Many candidates concentrated on the inconsistent triad and gave well thought out responses. Some found the justification for suffering more difficult. Most candidates are now familiar with the layout of the d question and were able to state their own opinion and give reasons for it in di) and give an opposite view in dii).

- (a) Natural evil refer to evil caused by nature, ~~for~~ or the natural makeup of the world. for example, earthquakes.
- (b) ^{partially think} ~~for~~ ~~think~~ everyone should have a religious upbringing as they are able to change their minds when they are older, a religious upbringing ensures that the child can have experience and knowledge of a religion, and ~~it can change~~ they can and have the right to change it when they grow up. However, I partially don't believe that everyone should have a religious upbringing because God ~~he~~ gave people free will, and by people having religious upbringings it is more one-sided as the child

would believe everything told to them about their religion because they would go to a holy place where everyone

(c)

Religious experiences may lead to belief ~~of~~ God because something really special must have happened in your

may
might
not

life for ~~you~~ ^{someone} to be able to change your life for God (Conversion).

Another religious experience that could lead to belief in God is Miracles. Miracles are events that break the laws of science meaning that only ~~a~~ something omnipotent could be behind it, and all holy books describe God with this trait, so it must be ~~down to~~ God the work of God.

when praying
or looking at
the sunset

Feeling the presence of something greater than yourself (Wondrous) could lead to believe in God because ~~if~~ it makes you feel as though someone is there that is listening to you and watching over you.

Finally, answered prayers can lead to belief in God because they can also make you feel as though someone

has listened to you and answered your prayers and only an omnipotent and omniscient thing could ~~also~~ be the cause; ~~for God is God~~ ~~only~~ God.

(d) (i) I disagree because God created suffering so that Christians can help those who suffer. I also disagree because God created suffering so that Christians can help and develop their God qualities so they are able to be accepted into heaven. Finally, God didn't cause suffering, as God gave people free will (Evidence from the Adam and Eve story) and if people use it for evil God cannot be blamed.

(iii) People may disagree with me and say that an omnibenevolent God (all-good) would not want to see his people suffer, so that means he is not all-good, or not there. They may also say that an omnipotent God has the power to end suffering so by him not doing so he is either not omnipotent (all-powerful) or he's non-existent. Finally, ^{some} people may say that an omniscient God (all-seeing) would ~~not~~ know that suffering exists and because he doesn't end it he is either not ~~omniscient~~ omniscient or non-existent.

a) Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it provides a complete answer similar to the second and third bullet points on the mark scheme. Fully correct answer = 2 marks

b) The candidate begins with a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks). They say in this that they partially agree; the examiner can then expect the candidate to give two opposing reasons. As long as they are both the candidate's own they can be marked as correct.

The candidate gives the reason - they are able to change their minds when they are older

This is developed - they have experience and knowledge of a reason (one developed reason)

The beginning of the second part shows that the candidate also has another opinion and they then give a reason why God gives free will

This is then developed by a description of upbringing being one sided and having to believe everything told to them (second developed reason)

This last part is in the margin and is hard to read. Candidates should be advised not to do this. Maximum marks have been awarded however.

Two developed reasons = 4 marks

c) The candidate gives a reason explaining that religious experiences are really special and make you change your life – one brief reason

Then the candidate gives another reason-there is no explanation for miracles other than God (two brief reasons)

The candidate then develops this reason-describing the Bible recording God as working miracles

Then the candidate gives another reason, numinous experiences makes you feel like someone is watching over you (two brief reasons and one developed reason)

At this point the candidate has given two brief reasons and one developed reason which is the maximum for the question so marks can be awarded.

Using two brief reasons and one developed reason is level 4 - which contains 2 marks (7 and 8)

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark. In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 – 8 Marks

di) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides a reason - God created suffering so Christians could help others

Then the candidate provides a second reason, suffering helps people develop qualities that will get them into heaven

Then the candidate provides a third reason, free will

Three simple reasons = Three marks

dii) A reason for an opposite opinion is given, omnibenevolent God would not want his people to suffer

Then the candidate provides a second reason, an omnipotent God would have the power to stop it

Then the candidate provides a third reason, an omniscient God would know that people are suffering and would want to stop it

Three simple reasons = Three marks

SPG = it is high performance - there is control and good accuracy in spelling - 4 marks



- a) Learn the glossary definitions which are in appendix 4 in the specification
- b) Questions should begin with a statement which identifies that the answer is the candidate's own opinion. In this case the candidate says 'I would agree...'
- c) Ideally candidates should start a new paragraph with each new reason they give on a c question.
- d) Candidates should ensure they clearly identify a religion in d questions, as this is clearly asked for in the question

An example of the same question which illustrates issues candidates may have

- (a) Suffering what is not caused by humans
- (b) No I do not think everyone should have a religious upbringing because some people may not want to believe in God and should have the choice not too.
- Some people might not like the idea of God and the idea that there is something more powerful than humans so they shouldn't be forced into believing that there is by having a religious upbringing
- (c) A religious experience like miracles can ~~lead~~ lead to people believing in god

because the miracle is scientifically impossible ~~that~~ the person will try to find logic ~~but~~ and sometimes turns to the idea that something more powerful than humans caused the miracle to happen therefore leading to the idea God exists. Another experience like feeling God's presence can ~~lead~~ lead to someone believing in God because the feeling that God ~~is~~ ~~with~~ ~~you~~ is with you can be so overwhelming the only thing that can describe it is the ~~presence~~ presence of God.

(d) (i) I think that suffering proves that God does not exist because why would God want something that he created and loved to get hurt and suffer.

(ii) Some Christians may disagree with me and say that God chooses when we leave and that he has a plan for us and letting us suffer is part of that plan.



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Examiner Comments

a) Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it is a sufficient paraphrase of the correct answer to be awarded 2 marks

b) Begins with personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

Then the candidate gives the reason 'some people may not want to believe in God' - this gains one mark as one brief reason

Then the candidate develops this reason by commenting that they 'should have the choice not too (sic)' - this gains another mark for developing the reason

The second paragraph is a repetition of the first reason - it does not provide any new reasons

The candidate should be awarded 2 marks for one developed reason

c) A miracle is defined then the candidate answers the question when they give the reason 'that something is more powerful caused the miracle..... leading to the idea of God'

They then give another reason 'feeling Gods presence' leads to beliefs

Using two brief reasons is level 2 - which contains 2 marks 3 and 4

The candidates QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 2 - 4 Marks

di) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides a reason, God would not 'want something he created and loved.... to suffer'

One simple reason = One mark

dii) A reason for an opposite opinion is given 'letting us suffer is part of that plan'

One simple reason = One mark

SPG + 2 marks is intermediate performance - there is general control, however higher levels of accuracy in spelling could be expected in this level so it is the lower mark within the range - 2 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

a) Candidate responses should not be more than 2 lines long although 3 is given for larger handwriting

b) Candidate responses should begin with a statement which identifies that the answer is the candidates own opinion. In this case the candidate says 'No, I do not think....'

c) Ideally candidates should start a new paragraph with each new reason they give on a c question.

d) Candidates should ensure they clearly identify a religion in d questions, as this is clearly asked for in the question

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

Question 2 was a lot less popular with candidates than question 1.

a) This was a glossary definition question about prayer. This question was very well answered by candidates; most candidates who did not know the glossary definition were able to give an alternative correct wording; very few gave an example. The description of someone who prays gained no marks.

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion and then give a reason for why they believed or did not believe God designed the world. Frequently the candidates described creation which did not answer the question set. Better candidates discussed the design argument and developed their answers with examples from religious texts or science.

c) This question was generally well answered by candidates, the majority of candidates were able to explain how a film / programme might affect belief, some able candidates were able to link parts of films to the question in a very erudite way. However it was less well answered by candidates who generally described a film / programme they had watched without answering the question – how it might affect belief. Note this question did not require reference to any examples of the media.

d) Many candidates answered this question very well; they gave reasons why miracles can and cannot happen and were able to develop the argument using several examples from the media and religious texts.

- (a) ~~Suffering caused ^{but} by it has nothing to do~~
~~with humans. It's all natural eg. Tsunami, earthquakes.~~
An attempt to contact God. (usually through words)
- (b) I don't think that God created the world, my reasons for this are that God is supposedly omnibenevolent (all loving / all good) so if he really designed the world he would not have wanted to include natural evil because he is all loving and wouldn't have wanted bad things to happen and if he was omniscient (all knowing) then he would have known how to design the world without evil. Another reason that I don't think God created the world is ~~that~~ because there is no real evidence or proof therefore how can I believe something that hasn't been proven.

(c) Films might affect a person's belief in God, one film that might have an effect on a person's belief in God is 'Bruce Almighty' the reasons for this is that people may watch this and see their role models believing in God and following God's rules and therefore it may persuade them to start believing in God because somebody who they look up to does. This film may strengthen someone's belief in God because Bruce prays to God for help and God visits Bruce and gives him help this may prove to some people that God really is omnibenevolent because he is helping Bruce. One reason it may affect a person's belief in God is when Bruce looks on his emails and replies 'Yes' to everyone's prayers including his own it causes chaos and he realises that not everybody is happy getting everything they ask for this could explain why some people's prayers are unanswered because God knows that having everything doesn't make you happy after all he is known as being omniscient. Another way it may affect someone's belief in God is that it may make them not want to believe in God or may weaken their beliefs because they may see it as taking the mic out of people's beliefs and so they may feel as though their beliefs are being mocked and they may not want to follow it anymore. Also if children are watching it they won't see the messages that are in the film therefore it's not going to affect them or persuade them to believe in God. It may not affect someone's belief because it's a comedy film and if they

wanted to learn about God they would watch the discovery Channel.

(d) (i) I disagree that miracles cannot happen today my reasons for this are that things happen every-day that could be seen as miracles. To me having a baby is a miracle, because it's something amazing that can happen a miracle doesn't exactly have to be magic, having a baby, a new life growing inside you is a miracle. Somebody's cancer getting cured is a miracle because their life has been saved and can carry on living as God planned us to do so. Another reason is that every day life is progressing and new things are being found, cures for illnesses are being discovered... What's to say that they aren't miracles?

(ii) Some Christians may disagree with me, one reason is because Jesus performed the first miracle by turning water into wine, and as Jesus is no longer around anymore they may ~~believe~~ believe that miracles can no longer happen without Jesus being the one to perform them, they may believe that he is the only one who knows how to perform miracles as he was their leader.

a) The candidate uses the exact wording used in the mark scheme (the glossary wording provided by Edexcel). It provides a correct answer.

Fully correct answer = 2 marks

b) The candidate begins with a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

Most of this answer does not mention design - which would mean it would not gain marks

However the candidate does refer to design tenuously, and gives a valid reason when they say 'if he designed the world he would not have wanted to include natural evil because he is all-loving'

They then give another valid reason linked to omniscience saying that 'he would have known how to design the world without evil'

Then the candidate gives another reason which cannot be credited as only 2 reasons can be credited in a b sub-question

However - neither of these reasons are developed as the developments provided are about the nature of God rather than about the design argument which is what the question is about. Development has to link to both the reason given and to the question asked - hence developments candidates often use such as: 'and Jesus is the example that all Christians must follow' and 'the Bible is the word of God which all Christians must follow' are not valid developments- they might link to the reason given but as they give no new information about the question asked in the first place they are not valid.

The candidate should be awarded 2 marks for 2 brief reasons

c) This question does not require candidates to identify a film or to use examples.

It is acceptable to say media affects positively, negatively and/or it does not affect at all.

The candidate answers the question when they give the reason 'persuade them to start believing in God' - one brief reason= Level 1

The candidate gives a further reason when they say 'prove to someone that God is really omnibenevolent'

Prayer is then developed with reference to Bruce Almighty - two reasons, one of which is developed

Then prayer is further developed as it explains why some people's prayers are unanswered (because God knows it 'does not make you happy')

These two developments give new information that link to the reasons and to the question

Using two ways -- one brief and one fully developed -- is level 4 - which contains 2 marks (7 and 8)

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 - 8 Marks

di) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides a reason - they define miracles as being amazing things like having a baby - at this point they have given a brief reason

They develop this with the example of being cured from cancer - one developed reason

They then say they give a new reason but it is really a further development of curing illness - cures are being found every day and these are miracles - one fully developed reason

One fully developed reason = three marks

dii) A brief reason for an opposite opinion is given - Jesus is no longer on earth

Then development is provided - Jesus is the only one who knows how to perform miracles

One developed reason = Two marks

SPG + 2 marks. It is in the high marks range - there is effective control and a consistent level of accuracy in spelling - 4 marks



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Examiner Tip

- a) If a candidate changes their mind about which question they are doing they should clearly cross through work they do not want marked
- b) Make sure candidates clearly read the question, and do not confuse creation, design and causation.
- c) Write each reason in a new paragraph.
- d) Development must link to the question and to the reason already given.

Another Q2 however this one shows issues candidates may face answering questions

(a) A prayer is a religious act to communicate with god.

(b) I think that god did create the world because everything has a creator so the ~~world~~ world must of been created by something it couldn't of just happened.

* I think that people will disagree with me because there are sci-fi films that most people watch and they show stuff like the big bang and how that created the world not how god did.

(c)

*

(d) (i) "Miracles cannot happen today." I do not agree to this statement because miracles happen everyday all around the world it's just miracles may not happen to one person everyday. People that pray often ask for a miracle to happen to them and even if it doesn't they still believe in god.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because of there own experiences like they have prayed for something to happen (miracle) but it hasn't happened and people who are not religious do not pray so will not expect a miracle.

a) An alternative wording used to that in the mark scheme, it provides a complete answer. It provides information that shows it is a way to communicate with God which is the second bullet point in the mark scheme

Fully correct answer = 2 marks

b) Begins with personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

Then the candidate gives their reason 'everything must have a creator... it couldn't have just happened'

However – this response does not mention design at any point – it does not therefore answer the question set as the reason given is not a valid one

The candidate should be awarded 0 marks for 0 valid reasons

c) The candidates answer is in the wrong place but it is complete so it can be marked as normal

The candidate has just about given a reason when they say that films show creation happens without God

Using one basic way is level 1 - which contains 2 marks 1 and 2

The candidates QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark - if you struggle to read a question because of the language and you think it does not deserve the mark for QWC it should be sent to review – do not award 'odd' marks in c questions only a senior examiner will do this

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 1 - 2 Marks

PLEASE NOTE THE TRUE SCORE INDICATED IS INCORRECT IT SHOULD BE 2 MARKS

di) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides a reason – miracles happen everyday just not to 'one person everyday'

The candidate then gives some information that is not relevant to the question about miracles and belief in God-this cannot be credited

One simple reason = One mark

dii) A reason for an opposite opinion is given - people have prayed for miracles and they have not happened then more information about non-believer is given which is not relevant to the question - this cannot be credited

One simple reason = One mark

SPG + 2 marks it is intermediate performance - there is general control and a fair level of accuracy in spelling so it is the higher mark - 3 marks

a) Definitions should be learnt from the Edexcel glossary

b) Candidates must clearly identify their reason in a b question, it can be for, against or can be undecided as long as the candidates indicate all reasons are their own opinion rather than 'Others may think....'

c) Candidates can gain maximum marks in a number of ways - look carefully at the mark scheme.

d) Candidates should read the questions carefully and make sure they look to the point of the question.

Question 3 (a)

3a asks for a definition of voluntary euthanasia. Many candidates received partial rather than full marks as they failed to include all 'parts' of the definition: the person's choice, the person's death, the person's illness.

(a) ~~kill~~ The painless killing of someone in great pain who has asked to be put to death.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme/ Edexcel glossary, it provides a complete answer mentioning illness and asking to end their own life

Fully correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn key word definitions using the Edexcel glossary.

An incorrect response given to this question

(a) voluntary euthanasia is where you volunteered to end someone's life that is suffering and unable to ask.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

a) This is non-voluntary euthanasia which as indicated by the mark scheme is no marks

Incorrect answer = 0 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn key terms thoroughly

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether religious people should be against abortion. Better candidates were able to refer to religious texts and examples as part of their answer.

c) The vast majority of answers to this question about why Christians do not agree with euthanasia were very good and candidates were able to answer by giving a number of Christian reasons, including development using biblical quotes. Lower achieving candidates included fewer reasons and relied upon secular rather than religious arguments.

d) Candidates were able to give at least one reason in response to this but many did not use religious texts in their responses which would have enhanced answers greatly. Better answers were given by candidates who responded by giving a number of reasons linked to a specific religion.

(b) ~~NO~~ as firstly ~~situation~~ because of situation ethics (to do the most loving thing) if it will cause the mother to have serious stress problems then surely the most loving thing to do is to let her have the abortion. Secondly abortion is not illegal in the rest of society so why should religious people be any different.

(c) Most Christians disagree with euthanasia because firstly it can be seen as 'playing God' as only he has the right to end someone's

life. Secondly because of scarcity of life (all life is sacred and given by God) so it would be an ~~an~~ insult ~~for~~ ~~to~~ to God if someone was to end it. Thirdly it says that "suicide is a sin" in the bible ~~so~~ this causes some Christians to think that if someone has euthanasia they will not go to heaven as it is similar to suicide. Lastly life is a test so if you choose to end it early then you have not proven yourself to God that you are worthy of heaven.

(d) (i) yes as firstly Christians believe that Jesus ~~is~~ died and went to heaven then came back to life. Secondly it says ~~in~~ in the bible about heaven, lastly Jesus spoke of judgement day where those who follow will go to heaven.

(iii) People may disagree with me because science cannot prove that there is a heaven. Secondly there is no physical evidence of a 'Soul'. Lastly if God ~~was~~ is omnipotent he would give us a sign that there is life after death.

b) The candidate gives a personal opinion (but does not receive any marks)

First valid reason for their opinion – apply situation ethics

Developed by – an example - causes mother stress

Second valid reason for their opinion -- 'it is not illegal' -- this is not developed

Two reasons – one brief reason and one developed reason = 3 marks

c) Candidates must give Christian reasons for arguments against euthanasia. Arguments which are reasons for euthanasia cannot be credited

Irrelevant information is not credited.

Reason one – it is playing God

Reason two – sanctity of life

Reason three – suicide is a sin

Reason four – life is a test

Four brief reasons = Level 4

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 - 8 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion other than Christianity as stipulated in the question.

The remaining reasons can be Christian or non-religious

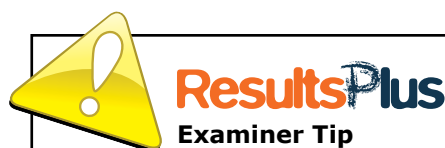
di) Reason one – Christian – Jesus came back to life

Reason two – Christian – the Bible teaches it

Reason three – Christian – Jesus taught it. Three reasons – 3 marks

dii) The mark scheme states that: Candidates who do not refer to at least one religion other than Christianity in either (i) or (ii) cannot go beyond 3 marks for the whole of (d).

So although there are correct reasons in dii they cannot be rewarded



Candidates should try to use the question in their response to ensure that they are answering the question set.

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether religious people should be against abortion. Better candidates were able to refer to religious texts and examples as part of their answer.

c) The vast majority of answers to this question about why Christians do not agree with euthanasia were very good and candidates were able to answer either by giving a number of Christian reasons, including development using biblical quotes. Lower achieving candidates included fewer reasons and relied upon secular rather than religious argument.

d) Candidates were able to give at least one reason in response to this but many did not use religious texts in their responses which would have enhanced answers greatly. Better answers were given by candidates who responded by giving a number of reasons linked to a specific religion.

own free will and will ask a doctor or family member
(b) No, I don't think all religions should be against abortion, I believe that everyone should have a choice, because if the couple aren't ready to have a child, or won't be able to support it, or if the mum or child is ill, then the parents should decide whether or not to have an abortion, not the religion. God would want everyone to be happy, and if some are happy having an abortion they should be allowed to do so. People believe life is a gift and there is reason for life, God would prefer a child to have a good upbringing rather than an unstable one.

(c) Most Christians do not agree with euthanasia because life is a gift and taking part in euthanasia is not living. Also because if they take part in euthanasia, a cure might be found after,

so you would have died for no reason.
If it's non-voluntary euthanasia, you don't know if that person wants to die or stay fighting the illness, but if someone commits non-voluntary euthanasia, you won't be sure if that person wanted it and is classed as murder; the Roman Catholics.

Some Christians do believe that it's ok to take ~~part~~ part in euthanasia because it's your life, so you should decide if you want to die. Also you might be old so there won't be much more to experience and you live on anyway in heaven or hell, so it's not like you're dying forever, you will just be living in another life. If ~~someone~~ someone takes part in non-voluntary euthanasia, some would think that they have the person's best interests at heart. If God didn't want it he would find a way to stop it as he ~~has~~ has unlimited power.

(d) (i) I don't agree, because some people may believe that God doesn't exist so there's no where else to go. Christians believe that if you don't believe in heaven you will go to hell. I also believe that it's our choice and God would want us to make up our own minds. We all have rights and it's our own life so we should be able to decide if we believe in life after death or not.

(ii) People in the Islam religion may disagree with me as they believe that everyone is sent to 'the waiting room' even if you don't believe, as then Allah will judge you and see what will happen to your life next. Muslims believe that Allah gave us life and we should be grateful and accept it. We should follow the Quran and make a choice on what we believe in about life or death. If you don't believe in it, it is a sin and will be held against you whilst you are in judgement.



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Examiner Comments

b) The candidate gives a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

First valid reason for their opinion - everyone should have a choice

Development - 'parents should decide not religion'

Second valid reason for their opinion - 'child should have a good upbringing'

Ignore the information about God wanting everyone to be happy – there is no evidence given here to support it

Two reasons one brief and one developed = 3 marks

c) Candidates must give Christian reasons for arguments against euthanasia. Arguments which are reasons supporting the use of euthanasia cannot be credited

Reason one – life is a gift

Reason two- a cure might be found

Reason three – non-voluntary euthanasia can be classed as murder

Three brief reasons = Level 3

The candidates QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion other than Christianity.

The remaining reasons can be Christian or non-religious

di) Reason one –personal – God does not exist so there is nowhere else to go

Reason two - people are free to choose if they believe

The rest of the information does not answer the question set it is about whether people should believe anything

Two simple reasons – 2 marks

dii) Reason one – Islam – description of what Muslims believe (just about a reason)

The rest of the information does not answer the question; although it mentions the Qur'an it does not say that there is evidence for life after death in it

One reason –1 mark



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Examiner Tip

b) Reasons need to be developed in b) questions to gain full marks this is easy to do by giving an example

Question 4 (a)

4a) Most candidates knew the definition of reincarnation. A few confused it with resurrection and gained no marks.

(a) Reincarnation - The belief that after you die in one body, your soul is re-placed on Earth in a new body, as a new person.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

a) Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it provides a complete answer similar to the first bullet point on the mark scheme

Fully correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definition from the Edexcel specification. It might help to have these visible around the classroom for candidates to learn.

This is an example of what candidates should avoid doing.

(a) Reincarnation IS reincarnating again for with something.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

a) This is not a definition this is a re-wording of the question

Incorrect answer = 0 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the glossary wording.

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

b) Candidates were usually able to state their own opinion about whether they felt the media should be able to criticise what religion says about matters of life and death. Most candidates were able to give one reason for their opinion, some struggled to think of two reasons and these were frequently repetitive. Candidates who did less well were those who provided examples which had nothing to do with this section. Often they referred to cartoons of the Prophet and as such did not answer the question set. Candidates need to be prepared to answer questions on the whole specification.

c) This question which required candidates to explain how Christian beliefs about life after death affect the way they live. The vast majority of candidates were able to answer well, but those who described Christian beliefs about life after death and then justified them failed to gain marks. Candidates should be encouraged to read questions carefully as to what they need to include in their response. The topics covered in this section, life after death, euthanasia and abortion, are clearly listed in the specification.

d) Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to state their own opinion about whether abortion should always be allowed. Some candidates gave responses which ignored the word 'always' and as such limited the marks they could be awarded.

It is disappointing that, even though previous examiners reports have highlighted the wording of d) questions, many candidates failed to gain more than 3 marks for all of d) as they ignored the part of the question stating 'you should refer to one religion other than Christianity'.

(b) The media shouldn't be allowed to criticise religion because everyone has the right to believe in what they want including religion. However, everyone also has the right to say what they want to say, & that is also true with the media. If they want to say something about religion they have the right to do so.

(c) Christians believe that ~~you~~ you will be judged by God on whether your ^{soul} ~~body~~ should go to heaven or to hell. Therefore, Christians give ^{by what the Bible says and try not to commit} ~~an good life in order to go to heaven~~.

Sins in order to go to heaven. People might ~~also~~ be ~~influenced~~ influenced by the lives of religious people for ~~example~~ example they might help other people like Jesus Christ did. ~~For example, they might~~

(d) (i) I think abortion should always be allowed as the parents of the child know best if the child is going to be brought up well. For example the ~~family~~ ^{child} might be neglected or not grow well as a result of financial issues. In these circumstances it should be allowed. It should also be allowed if the birth of the child ~~puts~~ risks ^{the mother's life} ~~the mother's~~ ~~life~~ ~~life~~.

(ii) Someone might disagree as ~~because~~ the ~~circumstance~~ child not being wanted by the parents might be seen as a not good enough reason as the child could instead be put up for adoption. Also abortion is seen as the same as murder therefore should be illegal just like murder is.

b) The candidate gives a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

First valid reason for their opinion – everyone has the right to believe what they want

Second valid reason for their opinion - everyone has the right to say what they want, including the media

Two brief reasons = 2 marks

c) Candidates must state the ways beliefs might affect a Christian life. Descriptions of life after death are not credited

Way one – do what the Bible says, and try not to commit sins

Way two – they might try to live their lives like other religious people

Development – they might help others, like Jesus

One brief way and one developed way = Level 3

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 3 - 6 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion other than Christianity.

The remaining reasons can be Christian or non-religious

di) Reason one –if the child will not be well

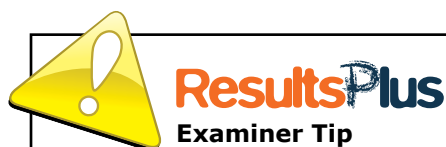
Development – it might be neglected

Reason two –if there is a risk to the mother's life

Two reasons, one brief and one developed – 3 marks

dii) The mark scheme says: 'Candidates who do not refer to at least one religion other than Christianity in either (i) or (ii) cannot go beyond 3 marks for the whole of (d)'.

So no marks can be given in dii as there is no mention in di or dii of any religion



Candidates should always try to develop their reasons

(b) I think media should be allowed to criticise matters of life after death, as some people might think that religion is outdated, and their views on after life seem to change many times and might have changed through the past. Also a debate allows to point out different opinions or views on this topic, as media has the right of freedom of speech. On the other hand they should not because all views should be respected, and no one has right to criticise others. The views come from teachings of holy book so criticising it would be seen as a sin or a wrong thing to do.

(c) Christians believe that once you die the soul goes to God for judgement, so this can affect the way ~~there~~ they live life in many different ways.

They believe that in order to go to ~~new~~ heaven you have to do and be good, many ~~these~~ Christians follow teaching of Bible as it shows and tells what you will have to face on the day of judgement, it also teaches them ~~about~~ about the testaments, and they are being tested to see how good or bad they live.

Also they follow teaching of Jesus as he set good example of loving, helping others, Christians

try to please God so they follow Golden rule, 10 commandments. However there are some ^{protestants} ~~christians~~ who believe that there is no hell, so it doesn't matter if you live good or bad in this world. and there are some Catholics who believe that they will be resurrected, reincarnated by the teachings of the Church.

However, many Christians try to live as good by helping others, going church, praying, doing good, living by 10 commandments as they know that when you die the soul will be judged and based on the way you have lived in the world, as they believe that there is life after death.

(d) (i) I disagree because religion like Islam, believe that abortion is a wrong step to take in life as it stop a procreation, it is forbidden in Islam, as it is viewed as a murder and goes against sanctity of life. It is wrong if parents are concerned about the child care for the future as sex was given by God for procreation and aborting would prevent it. It is also strictly forbidden in adultery as ~~it is~~ an unplanned pregnancy is not a good reason to abort a child, as only god can take life away.

(ii) I agree as some muslim women believe that they should be able to choose what happens to their body, as the Quran teaches it can be allowed but only before ensoulment as mother's have responsibilities to carry out in the future. However, it is allowed in cases of rape, and at mother's life risk as they need to survive in order to take care of family in the future.



b) The candidate gives a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

First valid reason for their opinion – religion is outdated (ignore the contradiction that follows)

Second valid reason for their opinion - debate allows different opinions to be aired

A third reason - freedom of speech is given

The candidate then gives reasons for the opposing argument (which is not claimed as a personal opinion) – which cannot be credited

Only 2 reasons can be credited in a b sub-question

Two brief reasons = 2 marks

c) Candidates must give the ways beliefs might affect a Christian's life, descriptions of life after death do not answer the question set.

Irrelevant information is ignored

Way one – they may follow the Bible

Way two – follow the teaching of Jesus

Developed by – Golden Rule only God can decide when someone should die

Way three – helping others

Three ways, two brief and one developed = Level 4

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark. In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 - 8 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion other than Christianity.

The remaining reasons can be Christian or non-religious

di) Reason one – Muslim – stops procreation

Reason two – murder

Reason three - against sanctity of life

Three simple reasons – 3 marks

dii) Reason one – Muslim – Before ensoulment

Reason two – rape

Reason 3 - if mother's life is at risk

Three simple reasons – 3 marks



Candidates should be encouraged to read through their work after they have completed it to check that they have written what they intended to write and that they cannot add anything else to their answers.

Question 5 (a)

5a) Most candidates knew the glossary definition for a re-constituted family, although a few gave descriptions and clearly were not familiar with the term.

(a) A family with step parents etc in it. It is not all blood related.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

a) Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it provides a complete answer
Fully correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the Edexcel glossary of key words.

This is an example of what not to do.

(a) when a family is brought back together by law



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

a) This is not a correct definition, the candidate does not know about re-constituted families
Incorrect answer = 0 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Regular use of the key terms helps candidates learn the definitions.

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether sex outside marriage is acceptable. Most gave two reasons for or against the argument but a few made a distinction between extra marital and premarital sex and gave coherent reasons explaining why adultery was wrong and premarital sex was acceptable. Less able students provided one reason only.

c) Most candidates responded using Islam as their chosen religion. Lower achieving candidates wrote non-religious reasons or Christian teachings. Better candidates were able to explain reasons why divorce is not accepted by some religions and they were able to develop the reasons with examples and quotes from scriptures.

d) There were some excellent answers to this question which clearly held great interest for the candidates. Answers were mostly based on religious and sociological ideas surrounding the use of contraception. The best answers to this question discussed issues such as natural and artificial contraception and the different methods of birth control.

(b) I No, I do not think that sex outside ^{is on} marriage because marriage is a legal joining of ~~to~~ a man and a woman and saying one of the vows is that they will both be faithful. ~~Also~~ Adultery is a looked down upon by Christians and God. ~~Further~~ Also sex outside marriage is seen as looked down upon by most Christians as they believe that you must ~~be~~ only give yourself to God has accepted you ~~to~~ binding to each other.

(c) ~~Muslims~~ Some followers of Islam ~~are~~ accept divorce when ~~one~~ one of the couple have ~~disgraced~~ disgraced the Islam and their believes.

Things that go against their beliefs
Such as Adultery, Sex outside of marriage,
gambling and drinking ~~alcohol~~ alcohol are all
acceptable reasons for ~~one~~ one
~~the~~ partner of the marriage to divorce
the other.

Also Muslims ~~have~~ Sometimes have an
arranged marriage and Some Muslims feel
that you can only be married to
someone that you love, so Some
Muslims Sometimes accept divorce.

(d) (i) I ~~am~~ disagree that it is wrong
to use ~~contraception~~ contraception because if
a woman or man does not wish to
have a child then that is their
choice. Also the use of contraception
does not only prevent ~~pregnancy~~ pregnancy
but it also prevents STD's which is
a good thing as it protects keeps
people healthy.

(ii) Others, such as Christians may disagree
because God told us "to be fruitful"
~~and to~~ Also Christians believe that
stopping pregnancy is against God's will of
procreation and believe that it is a
waste of life.

Furthermore ~~others may disagree because~~
~~they believe that~~ Contraception ~~is a form~~
~~of~~ ~~keeping~~ preventing

b) In the question candidates are asked about sex outside marriage - they can respond considering premarital sex and adultery.

The candidate gives a personal opinion (which has to be indicated, but does not receive any marks)

Reason one – marriage is a legal contract

Developed by - part of it is the vow of faithfulness

Reason two – must only give yourself after God has bound you

Two reasons, one brief and one developed = 3 marks

c) Candidates must refer to a religion other than Christianity

The question asks why divorce might be accepted. Responses were not credited that discussed why they might not accept it

Islam

Reason one – because they have broken Islamic laws

Development - examples including adultery

One developed reason = Level 2

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 2 - 4 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion

di) Reason one – personal choice

Reason two - STI prevention

Two reasons – 2 marks

dii) Reason one – Christianity- be fruitful

Reason two – Christianity- it is against God's will

Two reasons – 2 marks

b) Candidates should develop their answers so they give more information about the stimulus, e.g. 'and all Christians should follow the Bible' or 'and all Muslims should follow the example of Muhammad'.

c) Responses to an 'Explain why' question which describes rather than give reasons will not get beyond level 1 in the mark scheme.

d) Candidates must separate two opinions in d. They will lose marks if they mix them up.

(b)

No, Roman Catholic believe that sex should take place with marriage and sex should be for the purpose of procreation. Going with commandment 'be fruitful and multiply' (Genesis 1:28). In Islamic, ~~sex is~~ Also in Christianity having sex outside, before marriage is condemned and seen as a sin against God.

(c) In Islam, ~~the~~ divorce accepted, but disapproved of and only seen as the last resort. That divorce is some cases such

as if a person in that relationship is suffering abuse, that is better for the person safety. Divorce, then being the lesser of two evils. Also divorce being acceptable if someone is the marriage is unhappy, however should try to work on marriage first before divorce. Men in Islam, can divorce wife by saying 'I divorce you', then IDDAH, 3 month separation and hopeful reconciliation. If not divorce continue, Men says 'I divorce you' three times to wife and are divorce. But still responsible for making sure wife financially stable and for children.

(d) (i) Yes, it's wrong to use ~~conception~~^{trafficking}. It goes against the commandment be fruitful and multiply. ~~Conception~~^{trafficking} preventing God plan, in term of couples (married couples) having children. ~~Conception~~^{trafficking} takes away possible life, ~~Sanctity~~^{Pro-life} life states that only God can decide when to start life and end life, not a person choice. In Islam, muslim duty to marry and have children, ~~conception~~^{stop this}.

(ii) While, some christian disagree, stating that sex is for more than making babies, that sex is an expression of love. Also ~~it some cases e.g rapes that~~^{stop this} result that couples should be able to enjoy sex and decide when they're ready to have children, to ensure all are loved and well cared for. And conception, is okay, for medical reasons, so not to put mother life at risks.



b) In the question candidates are asked about sex outside marriage - they can respond considering premarital sex and adultery both of which are sex outside marriage

The candidate gives a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

Reason one - it should be part of marriage as should be open to procreation

Developed by - be fruitful and multiply

Reason two - sex outside marriage is condemned (sinful)

Two reasons, one brief and one developed = 3 marks

c) Candidates must refer to a religion other than Christianity

The questions only asks why divorce might be accepted no credit given for why they might not accept it

Islam

Reason one - for safety

Development - it is the lesser of two evils

Reason two - unhappiness

Developed - description of how a couple must show they have tried to make the relationship work

Two developed reasons = Level 4

The candidates QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 - 8 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion

di) Reason one - Christianity - be fruitful

Reason two - only God can decide when the couple have children

Reason three- Islam - duty to have children

Maximum reached

Three reasons - 3 marks

dii) Lots of information at the beginning which does not answer the question set

Reason one - able to enjoy sex and decide when they are ready to have children

Development - ensures all children are loved and cared for

Reason two - so mother's life is not at risk

Two reasons one brief reason and one developed reason - 3 marks



If candidates have time they should try to give as many reasons as they can in case one of their reasons is inaccurate.

Question 6 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for re-marriage, those who did not were usually able to define it using alternative wording.

A correct answer

(a) re-marriage is when a couple get legally divorce and then get married again.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

a) Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it provides a complete answer.
Fully correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the Edexcel glossary definitions which are in Appendix 4 in the specification.

An unusual partially correct answer

(a) re-marriage is being re-committed to someone after being getting ~~div~~ divorced from someone else.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

a) This is a partially correct definition, the candidate has the idea that there are previously married individuals involved but misses out the marriage part, instead they write committed
Partially correct answer = 1 mark



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

If a candidate is unsure of a definition they should give an example of what they think it is.

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

b) This was answered well and most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether attitudes to homosexuality have changed and most linked their reasons to modern understanding of homosexuality or scriptural teachings about homosexuality.

c) This question was well answered by the majority of candidates. It required candidates to discuss why followers of one religion other than Christianity might disagree with the use of contraception. Most candidates answered from the Muslim perspective and knew why they might accept contraception.

Answers that did not achieve full marks were those that included reasons why some followers of one religion other than Christianity might be against the use of contraception. Candidates should not be taught to always give both opinions as this is not required by many c) questions.

A few candidates referred to Catholicism as one religion other than Christianity and these gained no marks.

d) Most candidates were able to give reasons backing their view about whether divorce is bad for family life in di) and reasons for an alternative view in dii). More able candidates quickly realised this was not a 'for and against' divorce question. They responded to the questions as it was posed and they used examples to support their opinion. Poorer responses gave arguments for and against divorce.

(b) I don't think people attitudes towards homosexuality has changed because people still makes rude, horrible ~~and~~ and disrespectful comments towards them for example writing /saying nasty, unessaserie comments about them and making them feel small, or saying they won't go near them and making them feel unwanted and a bit small around people.

Also people have the habbit to stare and through filthy looks or laugh at them.

(c) Muslims don't always agree with contra-ception because sometimes they can't always afford it so when some people can't afford it the rest follows to make it

(d) (i) I think divorce is bad for family life because when two parents divorce their children is left in an emotional stage to choose who they want to be with, and if all of their children go with their mum it leaves their dad thinking that he's done wrong and that he should stay away then the ~~the~~ children is brought up with a single parent.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because that doesn't always happen as some people's children split some can go with their mum and some go with their dad.

Some parents don't always move far away some parents become good friends to make it easier for the children.

(d) (i) I think divorce is bad for family life because when two parents divorce their children is left in an emotional stage to choose who they want to be with, and if all of their children go with their mum it leaves their dad thinking that he's done wrong and that he should stay away then the ~~the~~ children is brought up with a single parent.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because that doesn't always happen as some people's children split some can go with their mum and some go with their dad.

Some parents don't always move far away some parents become good friends to make it easier for the children.



b) In the question candidates are asked about changing attitudes to homosexuality.

The candidate gives a personal opinion:

Reason one –people still make disrespectful comments

Development – saying nasty things about them

Reason two –people may stare at them

Two reasons, one brief and one developed = 3 marks

c) Reasons must be why followers do not agree with the use of contraception - reasons why they do accept it cannot be credited

This question must refer to a religion other than Christianity.

Islam

No valid reasons given - no level can be awarded. When no levels are awarded for RS no marks can be awarded for QWC

d) If answers to this question have failed to refer to religion they will get a maximum of 3 marks

di) Reason one – it can cause problems for children

Developed by - leave them being brought up by a single parent

Further developed - may make the father feel like he has to stay away

Three simple reasons – 3 marks

dii) No religious reason is given= no marks.



Candidates should not be taught formulaic ways to answer question. This often prevents candidates achieving high marks because they write generalities rather than answering the question.

(b) Yes, I think attitude towards homosexuality have changed, because :-

i) Before, homosexuality was seen as sins, homosexual people were not allowed to hold hands in public. But now they are allowed to do so.

ii) ~~The law~~ Now there's a law where homosexual couple get married and make a family together, ~~it shows that~~ also people believes homosexual people can have a long term loving relationship. ~~This shows~~

(c) Muslim followers might not agree to use contraception because life is a gift from God, it's like a blessing and everyone should accept the blessing rather than ~~denying~~ denying it.

God's most precious blessing. Also sex is given by God to procreate, it's necessary to bring new life in the world. As it's sp a special and holy thing to do. ~~In the~~ 0

In the Quran it ~~so~~ says "Be fruitful and multiple" ~~surely~~ This means that Allah wants his followers to procreate and make a family as family is known as the "heart of Islam". Therefore, ^{Muslims might think} everyone should ~~accept~~ accept Allah's blessing and shouldn't use contraception.

Therefore, they might think that instead of ~~using~~ ^{using} contraception they should give birth and raise the child as ~~well~~ being religious to please Allah.

(d) (i) Yes, I agree divorce is bad for family, because when ~~a~~ parents get divorced child might need to choose if they want to live with ~~mom~~ mother or father, this can affect the child mentally. Also, child might need to be separated from ~~the~~ siblings this might make the child upset also can affect on the education of child. ~~Why~~ Therefore I don't think it's a kind thing to do.

(ii) People might disagree as they might think a child might see arguing parents everyday and ~~this~~ ^{be} it might affect the child mentally anyway, therefore it's good if the parents get split ~~at~~ and give the child a better ~~environmt~~ environment to live.



b) In the question candidates are asked about changing attitudes to homosexuality, they can say they have changed or they have not changed.

The candidate gives a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

Reason one – now they can hold hands in public

Reason two – legally allowed to marry

Two brief reasons = 2 marks

c) Reasons must be why followers do not agree with the use of contraception - do not credit reasons why they do accept it

This question must refer to a religion other than Christianity.

Islam

Reason one –should accept the blessing of children

Reason two – sex is given to procreate

Developed by – the family is the heart of Islam

Two reasons one brief and one developed = Level 3

The candidates QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 3 - 6 Marks

d) If answers to this question have failed to refer to religion they will get a maximum of 3 marks

di) Reason one - have to choose which parent they live with

Developed by – it can cause mental stress for children

Reason two – children could be separated from each other

Two reasons, one brief one developed – 3 marks

dii) No more reasons can be credited as there is no religious reason in the whole of d and so according to the mark scheme

Candidates who do not refer to at least one religion in either (i) or (ii) cannot go beyond 3 marks for the whole of d



In c) sub-questions candidates should be encouraged to read questions carefully as to where the response needs to include reasons for, reasons against or both for and against as these will change from question to question.

Question 7 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for religious freedom and were awarded full marks. However, some candidates used the definition for religious pluralism and gained no marks

write your answer here:

(a) Religious freedom means you can pray when you like and change religion.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

a) Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it provides a complete answer.

Fully correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions.

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

b) Better candidates were able to answer this question about equal rights in religion using both the information they had been taught and their personal experience. Lower scoring responses confused equal rights in religion with equal rights in society and therefore gained no marks.

c) Most candidates responded well to this question about why Christians help promote racial harmony and were able to develop their reasons using biblical quotes. However some candidates explained what people do – or did in the case of MLK and this did not answer the question.

d) Most candidates were able to respond to the quote about whether conversion is desirable, but many were unable to use scripture or evidence to support their reasons.

Some candidates were able to give their own opinion and reasons but were unable to explain why others might disagree with their opinion. It is important that for d) questions candidates are encouraged to fully discuss both their own opinions and reasons for them and those opinions that other people might hold.

(b) I do think men and women should have equal rights in religion because I believe that neither gender is inferior. Men and women are both capable of spreading the key fundamental beliefs within their religion and both can have the knowledge to do so. I also believe that men and women should both be able to have the same roles within religious temples, not just men taking on these superior roles. I feel it will encourage more people to engage with the religion and have even more respect.

(c) Christians help to promote racial harmony because Christianity is a world wide religion. People of many different races all over the world follow the religion of

Christianity, so it makes sense for Christianity to promote racial harmony. Also, the Bible says to 'love thy neighbour,' meaning that Christians should be tolerant to everyone, including those of a different race. Discrimination would be going against one of Christianity's fundamental beliefs, so it is again important that they promote racial harmony. If they did not, Christianity could be condemned and frowned upon as most see religions as those who are tolerant and loving.

(d) (i) I do not agree that all religious people should try to convert others to their religion because it can cause huge conflicts. People may feel violated and angry at being forced to believe something that they may not agree with. The anger caused by this could start protests against conversion.

Some people are atheist and do not believe and may not want to be harassed into a religion. Forced conversion can also lead people to having a negative view on said religion, creating a gap between religious and non-religious people.

(ii) Christians may disagree with me because they feel it is their duty to spread the word of God as far as possible. They feel that one of the best ways of spreading their religion

is by converting others and within that, teaching them about the beliefs of God. They could feel that conversion may lead to a domino effect, the newly converted Christian then spreading on their new religious ~~bel~~ beliefs to their atheist or agnostic friends and possibly even converting them too, helping spread the word of Christ even further.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

b) In the question candidates are asked about equal rights in religion

The candidate gives a personal opinion

Reason one – neither gender is superior to the other

Development – both are capable of spreading the Word

Reason two – it will encourage more people to engage with religion

Two reasons, one developed, and one brief = 3 marks

c) Candidates must refer to Christianity and to racial harmony rather than religious harmony

Reason one – it is a worldwide religion

Reason two – love thy neighbour

Developed by - an explanation that lack of discrimination is love

Further developed by - if Christians did not show love they would be frowned upon by others

Two reasons, one brief and one fully developed = Level 4

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark. In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 - 8 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion

di) Reason one – it can cause conflict

Developed by - people might feel angry and violated

Further developed by – it can cause a negative feeling towards the religion

One fully developed reason – 3 marks

dii) Reason one – duty to spread the Word

Developed by - best way is to spread teachings

Developed by – domino effect spreading conversion

One fully developed reason – 3 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

b) Candidates can develop a reason very easily by giving a relevant example or scriptural quotations.

c) Candidates will be able to check they have written sufficient to gain full marks by using a paragraph for each reason.

d) Candidates must ensure that at least one reason on a d sub-question is religious

(b) I do believe that men and women should have equal rights in Religion but in Christianity you can not have a female ~~priest~~ priest which is not equal.

Also there is a lot of dress code for religion such as women are allowed hats but men are not allowed so this is again unfair, not equal and I think people should have freedom in what they wear and do in religion.

(c) Christians promote racial harmony because they think racism is sinful and can send you to hell. Christians want ~~every~~ all different races to feel welcome in church and do not want them to be different to everyone else.

Christians want to have a world like God first created it, with not discrimination.

(d) (i) I do agree ^{but} because some people see Religion as a game, the bigger the religion the more believable it is. Yet you should ^{they} ~~get~~ shouldn't I agree because God was the creator of this world so more people need to know this.

(iii) people will disagree with me because they don't want to be hassled by every religion and they just want to make their own choices and beliefs



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

b) In the question candidates are asked about equal rights in religion - they must include in their response that this is do with religious roles not those in society and they must give reasons rather than descriptions of the different roles

The candidate gives a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks)

But then the candidate describes different religious roles and says they are not equal but does not answer the question whether they think they should and give reasons why they think it

No valid reasons = 0 marks

c) Candidates must refer to Christianity and refer to racism rather than any other form of discrimination

Reason one - it is sinful

Reason two - they want everyone to feel welcome in church

The last part is not clear enough to be credited

Two brief reasons = Level 2

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 2 - 4 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion

When a candidate refers to God, church, priest, vicar, Bible an examiner can assume the candidate is referring to Christianity, they do not have to say Christians think....

di) Reason one - God was the creator and more people need to know this

One simple reason - 1 mark

dii) Reason one - People want to make their own choices

One simple reason - 1 mark



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates should practice developing reasons, this can be done in class by pairing candidates asking them each to write a reason and swap with each other to develop the reason.

Question 8 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for prejudice. A few candidates gained no marks as they defined discrimination.

A correct answer

(a) ~~the~~ ~~is~~ ~~a~~ prejudice is judging other people by their race, religion or ethnicity.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

a) Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it provides a complete answer

Fully correct answer = 2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Learn glossary definitions.

This is an incorrect example.

(a) prejudice is when you treat someone differently because they are different compared to you.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

a) This is a definition of discrimination not prejudice so it is not correct

Incorrect answer = 0 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions given in the Edexcel specification.

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

This question is based on section four in the specification. Each of the sub-questions covers a different bullet point within the specification.

Questions 8 and 7 were equally popular with candidates.

It was noticeable that many responses here were not complete; candidates should be advised to spend about 20 minutes on each question.

b) Most candidates were able to state their opinion as to whether living in a multi-faith society reduces racism using both the information they had been taught and their personal experience. Lower scoring responses confused the term 'multi-faith' with 'multi-ethnic' and gained no marks.

c) This question was well answered by candidates who had been clearly taught about interfaith marriages and could understand the issues.

d) Some candidates left this question blank as they had clearly run out of time.

Most candidates were able to respond to the quote. Many had obviously been taught community cohesion very well and they were able to reason why the government should do more. Weaker responses were very one sided and failed to include a religious response.

A full mark response.

(b) Yes I do think that living in a multi ethnic society reduces racism because it gives people a chance to understand and enjoy different cultures which they wouldn't be able to do otherwise. For example people can learn to understand African cultures which reduces racism towards them.

Secondly I agree ~~to~~ that living in a multi ethnic society reduces racism because people grow up together and learn that everyone ~~is~~ is a human despite having different traditions so people will learn that racism is unfair and unjust.

(c) Firstly interfaith marriages could cause problems for religious people because ~~it~~ ^{they} ~~means~~ can lead to parents disowning their children for not marrying into their faith.

Secondly interfaith marriages cause problems as they can cause disagreements on moral issues between the couple ~~parents~~ from different religious backgrounds which reduces racial harmony.

Thirdly ~~the~~ interfaith marriages cause problems because parents from different religions have to decide which faith to bring their children up in. ^{This} ~~which~~ can cause parents to worry as they believe they may not see their children in heaven as they followed the other parent's religion.

Finally interfaith marriages can cause problems for religious people because ~~if~~ ^{they} ~~it~~ can cause marriages to be weak as the couple will not fully understand each other's beliefs. ~~and~~ Religious people often want marriages to be strong so children can be brought up safely so as a result interfaith marriages can harm families.

(d) (i) I do not agree with this statement because ^{passed acts such as} in England the government has 'the Race Relations act which aids community cohesion by making discrimination illegal.

Secondly I disagree with the statement because I am a Christian and believe that everyone needs to help promote community cohesion, not just the government because they also need to focus on things such as education.

Finally I disagree with the statement because the government

have already aimed to promote community cohesion by having it taught in every school which is already proving effective so they don't need to do more.

(ii)

However someone may disagree with me because there are still many riots and a lot of racism between ethnic groups which shows community cohesion needs to be promoted more.

Secondly a Jew may disagree with me because they believe that if the government doesn't do more to promote community cohesion it can lead to things like the Holocaust happening again.

Finally someone may disagree with ~~me~~^{me} because they believe that community cohesion is the most important thing that the government should focus on and as a result they need to promote it more.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 84 MARKS



b) In the question candidates are asked about a multi-ethnic society and whether it causes racism. The candidate gives a personal opinion

Reason one – gives people a chance to understand and enjoy other cultures

Development – an example (people can learn to understand African cultures which reduces racism)

Reason two - people grow up together and learn that everyone is human

Development – racism is unfair and unjust

Two developed reasons = 4 marks

c) Candidates must refer to interfaith marriage and the problems this may cause to religious families - not secular issues and not mixed race marriages

Reason one –parents disowning their children for not marrying into their faith

Reason two – disagreements on moral issues between the couple

Reason three – decide which faith to bring their children up in

Development – believe they may not see their children in heaven

Three reasons, two basic, and one developed = Level 4

The candidate's QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 4 - 8 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion

di) Reason one – the government has passed acts such as the Race Relations Act

Development – focus on things such as education

Two reasons, one basic and one developed – 3 marks

dii) Reason one – there are still problems so more needs to be done

Reason two – can lead to things like the Holocaust happening again

Reason three - community cohesion is the most important thing, and needs promoting more

Three brief reasons – 3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

b) Candidates should separate their two reasons by using a new paragraph.

c) Candidates should use examples as development in c sub-questions.

d) Candidates can use development and examples in d sub-questions to improve their answers.

This is an answer which shows that it is easy for a candidate to lose marks if they do not read the question carefully.

(b) Christians believe that treating someone different because of their skin colour or religion is racist and are completely against it. They believe God made everyone and everyone is beautiful and different in their own way. Therefore living in a multi-ethnic society gives people a chance to learn about different religions and get to know people and their differences. It reduces racism because each and every person begins to understand why people follow and believe in their religion.

(c) Interfaith marriages are when two people each from different religions marry. This could cause problems for religious people because they each believe in different things. For example, Christians believe God is the cause of everything, and Jews believe there is no God. So if a Jewish person and a Christian became compatible, there may be conflict.

within the relationship. Also some Christians believe ~~god~~ Contraception is acceptable but for different reasons than Jews and with each partner having different views on different beliefs it can cause conflict and argument creating an unhealthy marriage. Also having children could effect the way they are brought up having both religions to ~~effect~~ ^{effect} choose either. Choose or not accept either.

(d) (i) Yes I agree that the Government needs to encourage more Community cohesion because Christians believe you should treat people the way you want to be treated and therefore racism should not be a problem at all. Christians say 'you should treat thy neighbour equally' this means you should treat anyone around you the same way ~~as~~ you would want them to treat you and therefore the government should be more strict on

(iii) producing community cohesion and multi-ethnic societies. Jews have different beliefs

to christians and therefore
may disagree and say that
the beliefs ~~pro~~ followed by
christians are wrong and
~~become~~ create more conflict
in an multi-ethnic society
therefore creating more community
~~the~~ cohesion & will create more
& more problems with in each
~~religious~~ religion and society.

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 84 MARKS

b) In the question candidates are asked about a multi-ethnic society and whether it causes racism - they must include ethnicity in their response rather than religious solutions to racism

The candidate does not give a personal opinion. They start off saying it is a Christian's view and as such they would not gain any marks unless they later claim this is their view as well

Then this answer does not refer to a multi-ethnic society but to a multi-faith society so although they mention racism, they will get no marks as they have not answered the question set

No reasons = no marks

c) Candidates must refer to interfaith marriage and the problems they cause to religious families - not secular issues and not mixed race marriages

Reason one –they believe in different things

Ignore the example of God as it is incorrect

Development – different views on contraception

Reason two – decide which religion children are

Two reasons, one brief and one developed = Level 3

The candidates QWC determines the upper or lower mark - not the quality of their RS

A candidate's communication has to be very poor to get the lower mark

In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 3 - 6 Marks

d) One reason in d must refer to a religion

di) This answer gives development before the reason – you could almost give 2 marks at the end after you have seen that there is a reason given in the last sentence

Development – Christians believe in the Golden rule

Reason one – Government need to be strict on community cohesion

One developed reason – 2 marks

dii) This half does not answer the question about whether the government needs to do more to encourage community cohesion, so it does not get any marks

0 reasons= 0 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

b) Candidates should ensure they read the question carefully.

c) Candidates should use examples as development in c sub-questions

d) Candidates must refer to religion in d questions

Paper Summary

Candidates produced some very interesting answers to the questions posed. The increase mean on this paper indicates that candidates have increased the maturity of their responses when answering the questions. Candidates have not only studied the topic but importantly have linked them to their everyday life and the society around them.

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates should:

- attempt the sub-questions in the top (odd numbers) or the sub-questions in the bottom (even numbered). Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom will not receive marks for all their questions and as such are at a clear disadvantage.
- indicate which question they have answered by crossing in a square at the top of the paper. Some candidates did not do this. They should be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation.
- not write more than the space provided. If candidates write more than can be inserted into the allocated space they are using up too much time on that particular question and inevitably will place themselves at a disadvantage later in the paper. Almost all the candidates who used extra paper had already achieved maximum marks. Any candidate who needs extra space can use that space allocated to other questions as long as they clearly indicate on the paper that this is what they have done.
- think of their timing. There were a number of candidates who did not complete the final section this year due to timing difficulties. Candidates should be encouraged to spend about twenty minutes per question, leaving ten minutes to check through work at the end of the paper.
- write using a black pen. This is important so that clear images are reproduced.
- learn the Edexcel glossary definitions in appendix 4 of the specification. Candidates who had learnt the glossary wording performed to a high standard.
- not point out other people's views in this question. The easiest way to gain full marks is for candidates to concentrate on stating their opinion and writing two separate reasons for it, each in a distinct paragraph so as to develop each of the reasons, with an example or a quote.
- write coherently. (c) Questions test AO1 and so are likely to ask for candidates to 'Explain why' or to 'Explain how'.
- ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in the (di) part and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in the (dii) rather than confusing the two halves. At least one of the reasons given in either (di) or (dii) must be explicitly religious to go beyond 3 marks.

Teachers should:

- be aware that (d) questions on this unit can ask for the candidate to refer to either one religion (i.e. any religion), one religion other than Christianity or can specify that Christianity is referred to.

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