

Examiners' Report

June 2016

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS01 01

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Introduction

This GCSE Religious Studies specification continues to be a very popular course; teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both interests and educates young people. The variety of choice within the specification allows teachers to teach the course that most suits their students and as such the examination is unique. Entry numbers have decreased slightly this year as the option of doing the GCSE as a short course is not recorded in school performance tables and the impact of schools no longer taking an examinable GCSE in RS as part of Progress 8 may also play a part. Many schools now study Unit 1 along with another unit in order to access a full course GCSE.

Unit 1 is a study both of Christianity and one other religion. This unit allows study of Christianity which is the majority religion in the UK but also allows study of another religion which is becoming increasingly important in today's multi-faith 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.

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

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 less popular with candidates than question 2.

All (a) questions ask for either a definition or examples. 1(a) asks for examples of moral evil. Candidates usually gave the examples of rape and murder and gained 2 marks. Some clearly did not know what moral evil was and tried to give examples of crimes people would do which were morally acceptable!

(b) This was about religious responses to the scientific creation, the sixth bullet point in the specification. Answers needed to include a personal opinion and better candidates used examples from either sciences or religious texts as development of opinion.

(c) This question required candidates to outline responses to the problem of evil, bullet point 10 in the specification. Most candidates were able to give descriptions of the various responses both theological and practical. Some however did not realise it was about the problem of evil and discusses responses to evil thus gaining no marks. There were some excellent responses using theodicies showing that many teachers were introducing candidates to higher level religious arguments.

(d) The question needed candidates to evaluate a statement about whether the design argument is proof that God did create the world. It was possible to use a wide range of material to respond to the question. Many candidates concentrated on the first half of the question and provided arguments about the design argument. Some candidates concentrated on the second part of the question, the existence of God, ignoring the design argument and limiting the marks they could be given as they did not answer the question. 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 (d)(i) and give an opposite view in (d)(ii).

Chosen question number: **Question 1** ☒

Question 2 ☐

Write your answer here:

(a) Two examples of moral evil would be murder and arson

(b) I think that all religious people should agree with scientific explanations of the world as fossils show evidence of evolution. This shows that God didn't create man in his first form and therefore shows that it is necessary to work with science.

Another reason is due to red shift. This evidence shows that the universe is still expanding which therefore

Show that the big bang created the universe and not God.
Therefore, religious people should agree with scientific evidence.

(c) Christians respond to the problem of evil and suffering by saying that life is a test. This shows that God created suffering in order to prepare us for the afterlife.

Another way that they respond to this problem is by saying that it is God's plan. For example, God created the flood to rid the land from the world so this shows that he knows what he's doing.

Thirdly, a Christian may respond to the problem of evil and suffering by stating that God ~~is omnipotent~~. ~~There is~~ gave men free will. This shows that as humans may have caused some suffering due to bad choices and therefore shows that it is our own fault.

Finally, a Christian may respond to the problem of evil by saying that ~~God is omnipotent~~ ~~for~~ the world needs balance. If the world was all good, we wouldn't appreciate the good things in life, so therefore by having suffering we do.

(d) (i) I don't think that the design argument proves God exists because if everything has a designer, who designed God? This shows that God can't exist as he is.

apparently he maker of everything so he must have been designed.

Also, I don't agree because evolution shows that God didn't design everything as they're not made in their final form.

Finally I disagree because

(iii) A Christian may disagree with me because they believe God is the ultimate power so he can't have a designer.

Another reason is because everything is so perfect and only one as omnipotent as God could have made it.

about design but the body was so big
Finally, ~~even this DNA is complex~~ that only one as omnipotent as God could have designed it.

- (a) Two correct examples 'murder and arson' = 2 marks
- (b) The candidate begins with a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks).
Then the candidate gives the reason fossils show evidence of evolution.
This is developed by 'it shows God didn't create it in its final form' – one developed reason.
The beginning of the second part starts with a development – example of the Red Shift.
The reason which is after this (reverse) is that 'the universe is still expanding... big bang created the universe'.
Two developed reasons = 4 marks.
- (c) The candidate gives a response – life is a test.
Developed by – creates suffering in order to prepare us for the afterlife.
Then the candidate gives another response 'this is Gods plan'.
The candidate then develops this with the example of the Flood.
At this point the candidate has given two developed reasons, which is the maximum for the question.
Using two developed reasons is level 4 – which contains 2 marks, 7 and 8.
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) (i) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides a reason, if everything has a designer who designed God? This is then followed by repetition of the reason.
Then the candidate provides a second reason, evolution shows God did not design everything.
Which is then developed by 'they're not in their final form'.
One simple and one developed reason = 3 marks.
- (d) (ii) The first paragraph addresses the candidate's own reasons in the first paragraph but it does not address the question asked, so this cannot be credited – reasons must address the question asked.
A reason for an opposite opinion is given in the second paragraph; only an omniscient God could make it.
Then the candidate provides a second reason, an omnipotent God could design it.
Two simple reasons = 2 marks.
- SPG = this is a high performance – there is a high level of accuracy = 4 marks.

- (a) It is important that candidates learn the glossary definitions thoroughly.
- (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 point they make 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.

This candidate does not achieve high marks. Although they write a lot, some of the information the candidate gives cannot be credited as it is vague, repetitive or inaccurate.

Chosen question number: **Question 1** ☒

Question 2 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) human moral evil is when you ~~can~~ rape or murder someone

(c) Christians react to moral evil with sanctions and also protest for what is right. Another thing that they do is support the victims with things such as charities

(b) Not all religions should believe in the scientific explanations of the origins of the world otherwise the religions wouldn't differ much beliefs and also people wouldn't ~~know~~ be able to have different opinions. Also religions would be followed or believed less than others if they shared the origins of the world as that has huge arguments ~~at~~ for different religions to help people to believe in them

(d) (i) ~~There~~ I agree with this statement a bit but not fully as there are other arguments. Christians believe in this for many reasons. If someone was created that introquet and functions their must be someone greater out there that can do such a thing. For example adam and ~~ev~~ eve would of needed to be clever enough to make them

(ii) However muslims believe in many different forms in life and also argue that if someone created "adam and eve" then surely someone must of created god as everything has a creator. Muslims believe in reencarnations coming back into the world in a different form this supports the argument that everything has a creator as something has to create that form as your coming back into the world

- (a) Two examples given – fully correct answer = 2 marks.
The candidate then answers (c) in the (b) space. This is not an issue, they are marked appropriately.
- (b) The candidate does not begin with a personal opinion but we assume that it is the candidates own opinion until they tell us otherwise.
However, in this example the candidate does not offer any valid reasons after this in response to the question.
The candidate should be awarded 0 marks
- (c) The candidate offers two simple ways 'protest for what is right' and 'supporting victims though charities'.
Using two brief ways gains level 2 – which contains two marks 3 and 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 2 = 4 marks.
- (d) (i) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides one simple reason, 'if something is intricate there must be someone greater out there that can do such a thing'; the information about Adam and Eve does not make sense.
One simple reason = 1 mark.
- (d) (ii) No accurate relevant information is given . It is very confused and too much incorrect information is given.
Award 0 marks.

SPG = this is an intermediate performance – there is general control and a fair level of accuracy in spelling, so it gains the lower mark = 2 marks.

- (a) It is helpful for candidates to answer in the correct spaces, however if they do not they should indicate on the paper where their answer is e.g. put the page number where it can be found.
- (b) Reasons need development to gain more than 2 marks.

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

(a) This was a glossary definition question for omnipotent. This question was very well answered by candidates.

(b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion and then give a reason for why they believed or did not believe the causation argument proved the existence of God. However frequently the candidates did not refer to the causation argument but they discussed 'creation', which did not answer the question set. Better candidates discussed why the causation argument concerning miracles is coherent, and developed their answers with examples from religious texts and even St Anselm.

(c) This question was generally well answered by candidates; the majority were able to explain how a religious upbringing led to belief. However, it was less well answered by candidates who simply described what a religious upbringing was.

(d) Many candidates answered this question very well; they gave reasons why God was/was not able to answer all prayers, and were able to develop this using several examples, illustrating how belief can be engendered or otherwise. Low marks were received by candidates who failed to link their reasons to the examples they gave or who said God can't answer all the prayers at the same time, he is too busy.

This is an example of a full mark answer.

Chosen question number: Question 1 ☒

Question 2 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) Omnipotent Means all powerful and is one of the three things that God is supposed to be

(b) In my opinion I believe that the causation argument does not prove that God exists, as if everything has a cause then surely God must have had a cause? He cannot just have always been there. There is no explanation as to why God was there in the first place.

Secondly, the causation argument does not prove God exists as science explains

What caused us to be here through the big bang theory, this is the idea that there was a single point in the universe from which everything was made, red shift proves this theory and thus people will believe this over the causation argument.

(c) A religious upbringing may lead to a belief in God as at home you will see your parents praying to God, as your parents are your role models you will think that what they do is right, therefore praying will become something that children will do and accept themselves.

Secondly, a religious upbringing will lead to the belief in God as your parents will take you to church, at church you will see many people worshipping God and children will therefore accept it as the social norm, because everyone is doing it.

Thirdly, a religious upbringing may lead to the belief in God as your parents might make you ~~to~~ ^{here} go to Sunday School, ~~that~~ you can worship God with peers of your own age and the children

will make friends with other religious children. If your friends are the same religion ~~then~~^{as} you then you are likely to stay religious.

Finally a religious upbringing may lead to the belief in God, because your parents will read you the bible and teach you Christian morals, you may like these and decide to be a Christian yourself.

- (d) (i) In my opinion I agree with this statement because surely if God is Omnipotent (all powerful) then he has the power to answer your prayers - but if he doesn't he must not exist. Secondly I agree because if God is Omnibenevolent (all loving) he has the love and want to answer - but if he doesn't then God cannot exist. Thirdly, I agree because if God is Omniscient ~~then~~ (all knowing) he has the knowledge to answer your prayers, but if your prayer is not answered then, surely God does not exist.
- (ii) However I Christians would disagree with me because they would say God doesn't answer selfish prayers, for example if you ~~tried~~^{prayed} to do well in an exam,

God might not help so that you try
harder next time.

Secondly, Christians would disagree with
me because some prayers may have a
conflict of interest and therefore God
cannot please both people. Thirdly,
Christians may disagree with me because
they would say 'who are we to question
the Lord's ways?' God works in mysterious
ways and we just have to accept that.



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Examiner Comments

- (a) The candidate has provided a completely correct answer.
A fully correct answer = 2 marks.
- (b) The candidate begins with a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks).
Reason 1 – 'surely God must have had a cause'.
Developed by – 'cannot just have always been there'.
Reason 2 – 'what caused us to be here?'
Developed by – 'through the big bang theory'.
Two developed reasons = 4 marks.
- (c) Reason 1 – 'see your parents praying to God'.
Developed by – 'think what they do is right'.
Further development by – 'children will do and accept themselves'.
Reason 2 – 'parents will take you to church'.
The next paragraph continues with more reasons and more development, but the maximum has been reached and can be awarded.
Using one brief and one fully developed way is level 4, which contains 2 marks 7 and 8.
The candidates' QWC determines the upper or lower mark – not the quality of their RS.
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) (i) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides:
Reason 1 – omnipotent...he doesn't, he must not exist.
Reason 2 – omnibenevolent... He doesn't, then God cannot exist.
Reason 3 – omniscient... does not exist.
Three simple reasons = 3 marks.
- (d) (ii) A brief reason for an opposite opinion is given – 'selfish prayers'.
Development – 'praying for exam results'.
Reason 2 – 'conflict of interest'.
Two reasons, one is developed = 3 marks.

SPG = it is a high performance – there is a high level of accuracy = 4 marks.



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Examiner Tip

When studying design and causation make sure candidates realise there are two different arguments. When they answer questions on causation make them use the words cause or caused and not create or created.

Similarly for the design argument – use designed or design not created or create

An example of a candidate who has some knowledge but is patchy with it. They do not write enough to gain full marks.

Chosen question number: **Question 1** ☒

Question 2 ☒

Write your answer here:

(a) Omnipotent means that you do not follow any religion but are open to the idea that there may be a god.

(b) I do not think that the causation argument proves that God exist because it is just another persons opinion. Also because it is ~~not~~ not solid proof.

(c) A religious upbringing could lead to belief in God because as a child you naturally do what your parents say, so if they tell you to follow a certain religion

belief you would do so. Also because your parents or guardians are usually who you aspire to be, like this

would lead you to have the same religious beliefs as them. A religious upbringing could lead to belief in God because when you are young you only know, think and believe what you are told and this could lead into believing what has been raised into you at a young age for the rest of your life. ALSO IF your parents or guardians are of a specific religion, for example Muslim, the child may not have a choice of what religion, many Muslim youths are made to follow the religion.

(d) (i) ~~THIS STATEMENT IS~~ I do not believe this statement is correct because I believe God can not answer everyone's prayer because there are so many, It can not answer them all. I also disagree with this statement because ~~if~~ some people do not deserve their prayers to be answered therefore God would not answer.

(ii) people may disagree with me because they believe God should be able to

answer every prayer because ~~God~~ in the Bible it says that God forgives everyone therefore everyone should have answered prayers even if they do not necessarily deserve one. They may also disagree because their prayer has never been answered and they believe that they deserve ~~one~~ their prayers to be answered.



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- (a) An incorrect response. Incorrect answer = 0 marks
- (b) The candidate begins with a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks).
Reason 1 – it is just another person's opinion.
One brief reason = 1 mark.
- (c) Reason 1 – you naturally do what your parents say.
Reason 2 – Your parents are who you aspire to be like.
Then there is some descriptive material which does not provide any new information and so should not be credited.
Reason 3 – nailed into you at a young age.
Reason 4 – parents have a religion and you may not have a choice.
This could also be regarded as one comprehensive answer, as the candidate really only talks about elements of parental influence – however it is a level 4 response.
Using four reasons 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.
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) (i) A personal opinion is indicated.
Do not credit 'God can't answer prayers because there are so/too many'.
Reason 1 – some people do not deserve their prayers to be answered.
One brief reason = 1 mark.
- (d) (ii) A brief reason for an opposite opinion is given – 'God forgives everyone.....everyone should have answered prayers'.
Developed by 'even if they do not deserve it'.
Reason 2 – some people have never had prayers answered.
One developed and one simple reason = 3 marks.

SPG – this is an intermediate performance – there is general control. The level of accuracy is good so it is the higher mark = 3 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Using paragraphs for each reason given is very good practice. It also prompts candidates to write more reasons.

Question 3 (a)

This question required the glossary definition for 'resurrection'.

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for resurrection, however 'coming back to life' was a common incomplete definition that could mean so many things it could not be credited as fully correct.

(a) Resurrection is when your body is raised from the ground. ~~so their judgement can be passed~~ ~~and come back~~



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Examiner Comments

- (a) A clear paraphrase of the definition which shows raising from the dead (ground) = 2 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Thorough learning of the Edexcel key word glossary would prevent candidates being confused about what the word means.

A partially correct answer.

(a) Resurrection means returning back to life after being ~~dead~~ officially dead.



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Examiner Comments

- (a) Does not mention rising in any way could be resuscitation or reincarnation – partially correct = 1 mark.



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Examiner Tip

Thorough learning of the Edexcel key word glossary would prevent candidates being confused about what the word means.

Question 3 (b)(c)(d)

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

Question 3 was less popular with candidates than question 4.

(b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether euthanasia should be allowed in the UK. Better candidates were able to refer to the current law and examples as part of their answer. Other candidates clearly did not know what euthanasia is.

(c) The vast majority of answers to this question about why the media should be allowed to criticise religion, (bullet 11 in the specification) were very good and most candidates were able to answer by giving a number of reasons, including development, using examples. Lower achieving candidates included fewer reasons, and some included reasons why they should not be allowed to criticise religion, which did not answer the question and could not be credited.

(d) This question was answered well by candidates, who responded either by giving a number of reasons often linked to a specific religion or by developing 2 or 3 reasons with examples from religious texts.

A full mark answer.

(b) I do not think euthanasia should be made legal in the UK because it can lead to many deaths (some of which may be non-voluntary) and many mistakes could happen during the process that could actually make it painful. Also, euthanasia being legalised can cause great distress/upset between families when making the decision. It's a permanent decision and once a person has died from it, there may have been a cure found after.

(c) Many people think that the media should be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death because they believe they have their own freedom of speech (free will) which they can go by. People also think the media has a right to criticise as their religious views on life after death seem mostly far fetched and made up.

and there is not hard evidence to prove their theories. In addition, multiple people in today's society are not religious, so criticism would not have the effect of offending them. Which is also why they think it should be allowed. Furthermore, numerous people may think that the media has a right to criticise what religions say on life after death, as criticism gains more attention and even though it's criticisms, sometimes it can make people aware.

(d) (i) I am in agreement with the following statement because humans are mortal beings and when we die there is nothing else. Also there is no evidence of an afterlife, when we die we decay and nothing happens to our remains. They stay buried or cremated. In addition, I am not religious (like many people aren't in today's society). So religious views on an after-life don't have an affect, I don't believe in them.

(ii) Some Christians may disagree with me due to religious teachings. For example, they believe that when we die we will be judged according to how they have acted during their lives. They will either be rewarded (heaven) or punished (hell). Also, the Bible teaches that Jesus rose from the cross (death) which makes Christians believe it is possible for them too. In addition, Christians also believe God has the power to create miracles and he may grant them with the miracle of an afterlife.

- (b) The candidate begins with a personal opinion (which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks).
Reason 1 – ‘it can lead to many deaths’.
Developed by – ‘some may be non-voluntary’.
Reason 2 – ‘can cause great distress/upset between families’.
Reason 3 – ‘it’s a permanent decision’.
Development of reason 3 – ‘there may be a cure found after’.
In (b) questions only 2 reasons can be credited. This candidate has done 3 so one must be discounted – in this case the middle reason has not been developed, but the first and last ones have – to give the candidate maximum marks possible award reason and development 1 and reason and development 3.
Two developed reasons = 4 marks.
- (c) Reason 1 – ‘freedom of speech’.
Reason 2 – ‘views on Life after death seem far-fetched’.
Developed by ‘and there is no hard evidence to prove theories’.
Reason 3 – ‘Criticism gains more attention’.
The next paragraph continues with more reasons and more development but the maximum has been reached and so cannot be awarded more.
Using two brief and one developed way is level 4 – which contains 2 marks 7 and 8.
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) (i) A personal opinion is indicated and the candidate provides:
Reason 1 – ‘when we die there is nothing else’.
Reason 2 – ‘there is no evidence of an afterlife’.
Developed by – ‘we decay and nothing happens to our remains’.
One simple and one developed reason = 3 marks.
- (d) (ii) A brief reason for an opposite opinion is given – ‘due to religious teachings’.
Development – ‘judged according to how they have acted during their lives’.
Reason 2 – ‘Jesus rose’.
Two reasons, one is developed = 3 marks.



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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.

This answer shows that candidates need to ensure that the information they give must answer the question.

(b) I do not think euthanasia should be allowed in the UK as 'the body is a ^{holy} temple' and should be looked after - meaning that it shouldn't be killed or euthanised. Also 'God created you in his image' means that to euthanise yourself would also be to 'deface' God.

(c) Some people believe that the media should be allowed to criticize what religions say about life and death probably because it is a very personal topic and

Sometimes the religion can come across strongly in the sense of 'do as you like to God and you will go to heaven, if you become Christian you can go to heaven forever whereas if you don't you will end up in Hell.

(d) (i) I highly disagree with the statement because knowing that when you die and go to a safe place will put your mind at ease, also 'There is always room at my house' states that there is unlimited

Space within heaven. Not only this ~~by~~
but if there was nothing after death
life would be very depressive.

(ii) Some people may disagree with my opinion
because they are either highly depressive
humans or they believe in something
else., in which sense I believe it
is ok but you have to believe in
something, don't you?



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- (b) The candidate gives a personal opinion which has to be indicated, but does not receive any marks.
The first valid reason for their opinion 'body is sacred and should be looked after'.
Second valid reason for their opinion is 'euthanasia is to deface God'.
Developed before the reason which is a reverse development 'God created you in his image'.
Two reasons – One brief reason and one developed reason = 3 marks.
- (c) Reason one – 'it is a very personal topic and religion can come across strongly'.
The rest of the information is irrelevant and does not answer the question.
One brief reason = level 1.
The candidates' QWC determines the upper or lower mark – not the quality of their RS.
In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 1 = 2 marks.
- (d) (i) Reason 1 – go to a safe place puts your mind at ease.
Reason 2 – there is unlimited space within heaven.
The last part does not answer the question.
Two simple reasons = 2 marks.
- (d) (ii) There is no accurate information so no marks awarded.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

In (c) sub-questions the candidate's own opinion is not required.

Question 4 (a)

Most candidates had some idea of the definition of assisted suicide but many failed to include the element of the definition which says 'means to commit suicide'. The answers indicated that the person did not kill themselves therefore this meant they were only given partial marks.

This is a correct answer.

(a) Assisted suicide is when the act of suicide is carried out by another person to allow the other person to die.



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- (a) A paraphrase of the correct answer 'helping someone to kill themselves' = 2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions as provided in the Edexcel specification.

This is an example of an incorrect response.

(a) Assisted suicide is helping someone end their own life.



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- (a) This is a bit confused and it could be murder as there is no indication that the person wishes to die so no marks are awarded.



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.

Question 4 (b)(c)(d)

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

Question 4 was more popular with candidates than question 3.

(b) Candidates were usually able to state their own opinion about whether non-religious people should believe in God (bullet 3 in the specification). Most candidates were able to give one reason for their opinion but some struggled to think of two reasons and these were frequently repetitive. Candidates who did less well were those who provided religious arguments rather than answering the question. Candidates need to be prepared to answer questions on all of the specification.

(c) This is a question which required candidates to explain why followers of a religion other than Christianity might not accept euthanasia. The vast majority of candidates were able to answer well but those who gave arguments for and against euthanasia limited the marks they could be given. It was disappointing to see many 'secular' reasons rather than referring to religious teachings and concepts. Candidates should be encouraged to read questions carefully as to what they need to include in their response. Some candidates referred to Christianity or Roman Catholicism and could not gain marks.

(d) Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to state their own opinion about whether Christians should accept abortion. Some candidates gave their own opinion about abortion and this did not answer the question set.

An example of a candidate who writes a lot but gives very little accurate religious information.

(b) in my opinion there are two sides to this statement. Non religious people may not be religious as they may not believe in life after death but no religion covers all that they believe in so they don't follow any but also non religious people who are scared of death so therefore don't want to be reminded of it everyday by the bible or hymns.

(c) Muslims do not believe in euthanasia as they believe in pure life. This is because it

you say you will not come back
re-incarnated as anything or
as a wanted or needed form
Muslims are also very loyal
to their religions and follow
it until their death and
they don't want to make their
life any shorter than it may
already ~~be~~ be. Another reason
is because muslims have
faith in Allah and believe
he will help them in difficult
times. However why in the first
place would someone be in the
mind set of euthanasia if some-
one is looking over them shouldn't
he be helping them. When
someone is in a really bad
way with a incurable way
they find it easier to take
the easy way out than stay.

(d) (i) I do not agree with this state-
ment. One reason for this is because
there are many ~~re~~ ways of conceiving
a child and one is a moral
evil Christians hate and that

as rape. People would have to have a child that resembles the face of their Rapist and also they would remember it always with-out a child reminding her all the time. If Abortion wasn't legal they would seek illegal measures that could also harm them in the process.

(iii) people may disagree with me as they are killing a innocent child that doesn't deserve to be killed before even being born. This affects many people as some can not have children and want a child people argue to put them in homes but they would still need to carry them around for 9 months just to do that.



- (b) The candidate gives a personal opinion which has to be indicated, but does not receive any marks. But then the candidate describes the question and then repeats it. They do not give any new reasoning.
No valid reasons = 0 marks.
- c) Candidates must refer to a religion other than Christianity.
This is a good example of a candidate who writes a lot but does not give much in the way of accurate information. In order to answer the question set the length of answer is no indication of the marks it deserves.
Reason one – they should not commit it because ‘Muslims have faith in Allah and believe he will help them in difficult times’.
One brief reason = level 1
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 1 = 2 marks.
- (d) One reason in (d) must refer to Christianity. This can be the use of any word that is specifically Christian.
- (d) (i) Reason one – ‘Christians hate the moral evil of rape’.
Developed by – ‘resembles the face of the rapist’.
Reason two – ‘they would seek illegal measures’.
Two reasons one developed = 3 marks
- (d) (ii) Reason one – ‘Innocent child not deserving death’
Reason two – ‘some people might want the child’.
Two simple reasons = 2 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.

An example of a question which shows candidates need to be able to develop their reasons to get full marks.

(b) I think that non-religious people should believe in life after death because if you just think when your dead that's it, nothing just nothing happens, ~~that~~ ^{then} what is the point of living. // I also think that if you ~~like~~ think there is life after death your life now would be much ~~more~~ better and you wouldn't be afraid of dying.

(c) Muslims do not agree with euthanasia because in the Quran it ~~is~~ teaches Muslims not to kill people for example if a Muslim was to do euthanasia then Allah would class that as a great sin and send them to hell.

Another reason Muslims don't agree with euthanasia is because they class it as a easy way out and Allah ~~is~~ has put them on this planet to

help others like it says in the quran. Allah has also put them on this planet to help others and not promote euthanasia.

(d) (i) I think that ~~all~~ some christians should be against abortion because for example if a woman has been raped and is pregnant the right thing to do is have an abortion because she wouldn't want it, another reason I think this is because if you don't have the room for a child and its going to be brought up badly then you should be allowed to have an abortion.

(ii) Some ~~people~~ ^{christians} may disagree with me because they might say in the ~~10~~ ¹⁰ commandments it says "thou shalt not kill" which suggests that ~~having~~ ^{having} an abortion is classed as killing and is ~~a~~ ^a sin.

- (b) The candidate gives a personal opinion which has to be indicated, but does not receive any marks.
Reason one – 'if there is no life after death... what is the point of living?'
Reason two – 'you won't be afraid of dying'.
Two brief reasons = 2 marks
- (c) Candidates must refer to a religion other than Christianity.
If a religion is used that is not in the mark scheme please send it to review with a typed message saying 'This religion is not in the mark scheme'. It can then be marked by a senior examiner at the appropriate level.
This is a good example of a candidate who writes a lot but does not give much in the way of accurate information in order to answer the question set. The length of an answer is no indication of the marks it deserves.
Reason one – 'Quran teaches Muslims not to kill people'.
Reason two – 'It is a great sin'.
Reasons three – 'will send them to hell'.
Reason three – 'it is an easy way out' (reference to the test of life).
Four brief 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. 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. We 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 4 = 8 Marks
- (d) One reason in (d) must refer to Christianity – this can be the use of any word that is specifically Christian.
- (d)(i) Reason one – 'a woman has been raped'.
Developed by – 'wouldn't want it'.
Reason two – 'it will be brought up badly'.
Two reasons one developed = 3 marks.
- (d)(ii) Development of the only reason which is at the end – 'it says in the Ten Commandments'.
More development of the reason which is at the end – 'Do not Kill'.
Reason at the end – 'and abortion is killing'.
One fully developed reason = 3 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Candidates should always try to develop their reasons.

Question 5 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for pre-marital sex.

This is a full mark answer.

(a) having sex before marriage.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(a) Glossary definition 'sex before marriage' is included in this response = 2 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the Edexcel glossary of key words.

An example of a partially correct answer.

(a) pre-marital sex means sex outside of marriage.
on having sex before marriage.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(a) Glossary definition 'sex before marriage' is not included in this response. It could also include extramarital sex.

A partially correct answer = 1 mark.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the Edexcel glossary of key words.

Question 5 (b)(c)(d)

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

Question 5 was a much more popular choice than question 6.

(b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether attitudes to divorce have changed in the UK. Some candidates gave two opposing opinions and as long as they showed that both opinions were their point of view they could be credited. Less able students discussed whether divorce is acceptable and gained no marks.

(c) Most candidates were able to identify some reasons why Christians might accept the use of contraception. Lower achieving candidates were not able to refer to Christian teachings and referred to reasons why it might not be acceptable. Better candidates developed the reasons with examples of Christian life and quotes from the Bible.

(d) Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to use a religion other than Christianity to state their own opinion about whether sex outside marriage is acceptable. The best answers to this question discussed issues such as security and sanctity of marriage. Poorer answers launched into opinions about why anyone should tell anyone else what they should and should not do. If these did not provide specific information about sex outside marriage they were not credited.

A full mark answer.

(b) In my opinion I think that divorce ^{attitudes} ~~has~~ have changed in the UK as in the 1950's it was very rare to get a divorce but now it is about 2 in 5 couples. This might be because the churches preach divorce is wrong and the church is getting less influential so less people disagree with divorce.

Secondly I think that attitudes towards divorce has changed as in the 1950's women ~~was~~ were thought to be evil if ~~they~~ ^{they} got a divorce however now that women have ^{equal} ~~same~~ rights to men they can now divorce without being prejudiced against.

(c) Many Christians accept the use of contraception because it can reduce STI's such as AIDS. ~~The~~ Jesus prevents that to do the loving thing was always the right thing. And preventing someone from getting AIDS ~~was~~ is the loving thing to do.

Secondly, many Christians accept the use of contraception because they believe God wouldn't have made sex pleasurable if he didn't want people to enjoy it. If it was just about making new children then it wouldn't be pleasurable. God clearly wants people to enjoy sex.

Thirdly, many Christians accept the use of contraception because if the parents ~~of~~ are carriers of a certain disease such as Cystic fibrosis then they might not want a child - but might still want to show their love through sex. They should be allowed to do that.

Finally, young Christians, except the use of Contraception as parents, might not be able to afford a child but want to show commitment to each other through sex. This should be acceptable.

(d) (i) In my opinion I disagree with this statement because God wouldn't have made sex pleasurable if he didn't want people to have it. Just because you can't find someone doesn't mean you should loose out on this pleasure.

Secondly, I disagree because if you are in a long term relationship and you can't afford to get married ~~then~~ then you should be able to show commitment to each other through sex.

Thirdly I disagree because God gave us free will and thus we should be able to do what we want.

(ii) However ~~they~~ ^{they} would say that this statement is correct and would disagree with me because sex should be about making children, and you shouldn't have a child outside marriage. Secondly they would say that The ~~the~~ Quran is says that sex outside marriage could ruin family life and this is a warning

Sin in Islam. Thirdly they would agree with the statement as Muhammad ~~and~~ didn't have sex before marriage and since he is the prophet they should follow his example.



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Examiner Comments

This question is about attitude to **divorce** not families.

No credit is given for the same information reversed – only if it provided new information.

This candidate gives a personal opinion which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks.

Reason one – 'in the 1950's it was rare to get a divorce'.

Developed by – 'because the church is less influential'.

Reason two – 'in the 1950's women were thought to be 'evil' if they had a divorce'.

Developed by – 'now women have equal rights'.

Two developed reasons = 4 marks

(c) Ensure the credit is about contraception NOT about sex.

Reason one – 'it can reduce STI's'.

Developed by – 'AIDs'.

Developed by – 'which is a loving thing to do'.

The next paragraph is about sex. It is not about contraception therefore gains no marks.

Reason two – 'the parents might be carriers of a genetic disease'.

There is further development here.

Maximum marks have been achieved.

Two developed reasons = level 4.

The candidates' QWC determines the upper or lower mark – not the quality of their RS.

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.

(d) (i) Reason one – 'wouldn't have made sex pleasurable if he didn't want people to have it'.

Developed by – 'haven't found that one does not mean you should 'loose out' '.

Reason two – 'to show commitment to a person'.

Two reasons one brief and one developed = 3 marks.

(d) (ii) Reason one – 'MUSLIMS say shouldn't have a child outside marriage'.

Reason two – 'QURAN says sex outside marriage can ruin family life'.

Developed by – 'this is a sin in ISLAM'.

Two reasons one brief and one developed = 3 marks.



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Examiner Tip

(b) Candidates should develop their answers so they give more information about the stimulus.

General comments such as 'and all Christians should follow the Bible' or 'and all Muslims should follow the example of Muhammad' do not give more information about the stimulus and this will not be credited as development.

(c) Responses to an 'explain why' question which describes rather than gives reasons will not get beyond level 1 in the mark scheme. Explain how questions will be rewarded for description.

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

This is an example of an answer that lacks accurate information.

(b) personally I think attitudes towards divorce have changed in the UK because you used to be able to get a divorce over anything now you have to have a valid reason to get a divorce with someone not just because you get bored and want another wife like you used to be able to. You have to do lots of paperwork and make sure everything is shared fairly takes a lot longer to get a divorce now than what it used to.

(c) Many Christians accept the use of contraception because it's not an act against God so they think it's acceptable therefore this is why it happens.

(d) (i) I disagree that sex outside marriage is not ~~was~~ always wrong because if a couple have been dating for a couple of months and they are serious about the relationship then sex outside marriage isn't wrong because it has a meaning behind it. But if the couple had only met once before in their whole life and they had sex on the first meet up then that is wrong because it has no meaning at all they are just doing because they want to which is an act against God.

(iii) Some people may disagree and think that sex before marriage is not acceptable in any way and that you always have to be married before you have sex. They do this because it shows that the person is committed and that they can wait for sex and that it is not the only thing that they think about.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (b) Although this candidate has given information, it is inaccurate and does not answer the question so it cannot be credited.
No valid reasons = 0 marks.
- (c) Reason one – 'contraception is not an act against God' (paraphrase of not sinful).
One brief reason = level 1.
The candidates' QWC determines the upper or lower mark, not the quality of their RS.
In this case the candidate's communication is understandable so they will get the higher of the 2 marks within level 1 = 2 Marks.
- (d) One reason in (d) must refer to a religion other than Christianity otherwise a maximum of 3 marks for all of (d) can be awarded.
Mark schemes for the religions studied for this GCSE are in the mark scheme.
- (d) (i) Reason 1 – 'it isn't wrong because it has meaning behind it'.
The rest of the answer is the opposite view so it cannot be credited.
One brief reason = 1 mark.
- (d) (ii) Reasons 1 – 'they do this to show that someone is committed'.
One brief reason = 1 mark.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

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 cohabitation. Those who did not were usually able to define it using alternative wording.

A correct definition.

(a) Cohabitation is living together as a couple ~~with~~
without being married.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (a) The glossary definition, including the two elements 'living together' and 'not being married' (therefore in a relationship) were mentioned here = 2 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

It is easy to get full marks on the (a) sub-questions by learning the keyword glossary definitions provided by Edexcel within the specification.

This is a typical incorrect answer.

(a) ~~It is~~ 2 two parents and two
children living together.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (a) Inaccurate information is given with an incorrect definition = 0 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

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

Question 6 (b)(c)(d)

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

Question 6 was a less popular choice than question 5.

(b) This was answered well and most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether attitudes to family life had changed, which is bullet point 1 in the specification. Some candidates struggled and gave answers about divorce or the role of men and women. These are from different bullet points and do not answer the question about family life.

(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 accept divorce. Most candidates answered from the Muslim perspective and knew why they might accept divorce. Answers that did not achieve full marks were those that included reasons why some followers of one religion other than Christianity might be against divorce. Candidates should not be taught to always give both opinions as this is not required by many (c) questions. Sadly a few candidates also referred to Catholicism as one religion other than Christianity and these gained no marks at all.

(d) Most candidates were able to give reasons backing their view about whether Christian attitudes to homosexuality have changed in (di) and reasons for an alternative view in (dii). More able candidates used examples from changes in the law and quotations from Church teachings to support their opinion. Poorer candidate responses simply gave arguments for and against homosexuality or included religious scripture as proof that attitudes had changed, when these have not changed.

This is an example of a full mark answer.

(b) I think attitudes towards family life have changed in the UK because there are more single parent families than there once was because less people are getting married. Also reconstituted families are more common because people are remarrying into families and therefore step brothers/sisters and step parents are frequently common. Finally, same sex families are now allowed to adopt and have children of their own which was unheard of in the

(c) Some muslims accept divorce because they feel if the couple are unhappy then it is the best thing to do

Separate. Also if it is affecting family life and conflict then separation could be viewed by some muslims as the best option. In addition, if the couple are arguing constantly this could affect their children and their upbringing therefore it is the best thing to do so that everyone is happy. Also as long as the couple have tried to resolve problems beforehand and failed then divorce is seen as the last resort so they can be happy.

(d) (i) I disagree that attitudes towards homosexuality have not changed because more people are accepting and homosexual couples can have

a civil partnership and are mainly treated equally in society. Also homosexuals can now get married in church in front of God whereas before this wasn't allowed to occur. Finally, some sex families are common and they can adopt children.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me and say homosexuals still get discriminated against and that some Christians are against homosexuality. Some say homosexuality is wrong because they can't have procreate and the main purpose of life is to have children. But if "God created man in his own image" and you should "love thy neighbour" then why do some Christians still not accept homosexuals?



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Examiner Comments

- (b) In the question candidates are asked about family life. They must include reasons about the family rather than the roles of men and women (which is a topic from the next section). This candidate gives a personal opinion which has to be indicated, but does not receive any marks.
Reason one – ‘more single parent families’.
Developed by – ‘less people getting married’.
Reasons two – ‘more reconstituted families’.
Developed by – ‘remarrying into families’.
Two developed reasons = 4 marks.
- (c) Candidates must refer to a religion other than Christianity
Reason one – ‘MUSLIMS accept divorce...best thing to separate’.
Reason two – ‘conflict ...best options’.
Reason three – ‘affect children’.
Developed by – ‘everyone is happy’.
Three reasons, one brief and one developed = level 4.
The candidates’ QWC determines the upper or lower mark, not the quality of their RS.
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 Christianity.
- (d) (i) Reason one – ‘people are more accepting’.
Reason two – ‘couples can have a civil partnership’.
Developed by – ‘treated equally in society’.
One developed and one simple reason = 3 marks.
- (d) (ii) Reason one – ‘still discriminated against’.
Reason two – ‘some Christians are against homosexuality’.
Developed by – ‘because they can’t procreate’.
Two reasons, one developed = 3 marks.



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Examiner Tip

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.

This is an answer where the candidate does not give enough reasons to gain full marks.

(b) I think that attitudes towards family life have changed in the UK, since nowadays, men and women can ~~not~~ go to work. Also, nowadays, there are more different types of families (e.g. extended family, reconstituted family etc.)

(c) In Islam, some of its followers accept divorce since it may be the 'lesser of two evils' because a divorce is allowed if that marriage leads to hatred. Some Muslims accept divorce since marriage is a contract and contracts can be broken.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement that 'Attitudes to homosexuality have not really changed'. Since hundreds of years ago, homosexuality was banned since it was seen as a sin. However, nowadays there can be weddings for people who are homosexual.



- (b) In the question candidates are asked about family life. They must include reasons about the family rather than the roles of men and women (which is a topic from the next section). The candidate gives a personal opinion, which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks.
The top 3 lines are about women and work not about families.
Reason one – ‘There are more different types of families’.
Developed by – ‘a list of the types’.
One developed reason = 2 marks.
- (c) Candidates must refer to a religion other than Christianity.
Mark schemes for the religions studied for this GCSE are in the mark scheme.
Reason one – ‘in ISLAM lesser of two evils’.
Developed by – ‘allowed ... leads to hate’.
Reason two – ‘MUSLIMS accept marriage is a contract ...can be broken’.
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 – 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. We 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 3 = 6 marks.
- (d) One reason in (d) must refer to Christianity.
- (d) (i) Reason one – ‘was banned as it was seen as a sin’.
Reason two – ‘nowadays can be a wedding’.
Two simple reasons = 2 marks.
- (d) (ii) Reason one – ‘still people who are against homosexuality’.
One simple reason = 1 mark.



If candidates start each reason with a new paragraph they can often recognise that the reason they are about to write is the same as one they have already given and so can avoid repetition.

Question 7 (a)

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for multi-faith society and were awarded full marks. However, some candidates used the definition for multi – ethnic society and gained no marks.

A correct answer.

(a) multi-faith society is where lots of different faiths meet to gather and ~~have~~ show of their stuff.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A fully correct answer giving a paraphrase of the glossary definition = 2 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions.

A partially correct definition.

(a) A multi-faith society is a society in which people of different beliefs live together.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(a) The correct glossary definition is 'many faiths living together'. This has the idea of different faiths but has the wrong understanding of society.

It is partially correct = 1 mark



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Examples are credited as partially correct when definitions are asked for; this candidate might have found it easier to give an example.

Question 7 (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.

Question 7 was a slightly less popular choice than question 8.

It was noticeable that many of questions 7 and 8 were not complete; candidates should be advised to spend about 20 minutes on each question.

(b) Better candidates were able to answer this question about government help for community cohesion using the information they had been taught. Lower scoring responses did not understand what the government had done or what community cohesion meant and thus gained no marks.

(c) Most candidates answered this really well, recognising that this was a question asking about how the roles of men and women had changed often explaining in great detail. However, some candidates did this from a religious perspective making it more difficult than it needed to be.

(d) Most candidates were able respond to the quote about racial harmony but failed to refer to a religion other than Christianity, so limiting their overall score to a possible 3 out of 6. Some candidates were able to give their own opinion and reasons for it but were unable to explain why others might disagree with their opinion. It is important that candidates are encouraged to fully discuss both their own reasons and those that other people might hold.

A full mark answer.

(b) I think governments the government can help community cohesion because they can give groups which work towards community cohesion money so they can research into it which increases the chance of community cohesion in more societies.

Secondly, I think the government can help promote community cohesion by making the law that it has to be taught in schools so when children are growing up they all have a common vision and sense of belonging in society.

(c) Firstly, the ~~attitudes~~ attitudes to roles of men and women have changed in the UK because more women go out to work now so both men and women can earn a living and provide for their family.

Secondly, attitudes ~~for~~ towards the roles of men and women have changed in the UK because of the 'equal pay act' being introduced which means women can have better and more skilled jobs and still get paid a similar amount to them, where as in the past they'd ~~be~~ be paid much lower for doing the same job role.

Thirdly, attitudes to the role of men and women have changed in the UK because it's seen as more acceptable in society for men to take part and do household jobs such as cooking, cleaning and help look after the children. Where as in the past, men would be extremely looked down upon for this.

Lastly, attitudes towards the roles of men and women have changed in the UK because of the sex-discrimination act being brought in which means there

~~that~~ there's less discrimination towards women in society. Also, women are now allowed to vote in elections and run for MPs which wasn't allowed 100 years ago but now it's normal in society.

(d) (i) I agree with the quote 'religious people must work for racial harmony' because it would ~~mean~~ mean a closer step towards achieving community cohesion. ~~The~~ Secondly, Allah made everyone equal and there is Muslims of different races around the world. Thirdly, I agree because I ~~think~~ think that everyone is equal ~~because~~ because God made everyone, therefore no one is any better than anyone else and religions could all come together to promote racial harmony.

(ii) People may disagree with me because they believe people other than religious people must work for racial harmony such as the government doing more to stop ~~racism~~ racism. ^{Also, people may think it will be hard for Christians and Muslims to work together because they believe different things} Secondly, people may disagree because they may believe in ~~the~~ 'Treat people as they treat you' so if someone discriminates against them because of

their race, they'll discriminate back.
Lastly, people may disagree because not everyone is in a religion so just religious people working together couldn't achieve racial harmony



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Examiner Comments

- (b) In the question candidates are asked about government action. It does not need to refer to religion.
The candidate gives a personal opinion, which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks.
Reason one – 'give groups working for community cohesion money'.
Developed by – 'increases the chance in more societies'.
Reason two – 'law it is taught in school'.
Developed by – 'so they have a common sense of belonging'.
Two developed reasons = 4 marks.
- (c) Candidates need not refer to a religion in this question.
Reason one – 'more men and women go out to work now'.
Reason two – 'the equal pay act'.
Developed by – 'be paid a similar amount'.
Reason three – 'more acceptable for men to take part in household jobs'.
Three reasons, two brief and one developed = level 4.
The candidates' QWC determines the upper or lower mark, not the quality of their RS.
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) This question is about racial harmony. No credit can be given for information about religious harmony. Candidates must refer to a religion other than Christianity.
- (d) (i) Reason one – 'because it leads to community cohesion'.
Reason two – 'ALLAH made all races equal'.
Developed by – 'so no one is any better than anyone else'.
Two reasons one developed = 3 marks
- (d) (ii) Reason one – 'government can do more'.
Reason two – 'Treat others as they treat you'.
Reason three – 'just religious people can't do it alone'.
Three simple reasons = 3 marks.



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Examiner Tip

- (b) Candidates can develop a reason very easily by giving a relevant example or scriptural quote.
- (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 must be religious.

(b) I think the government could help community cohesion as it will help to bring communities closer together and help them work better together, which will improve the strength of the relationships between people in ~~different~~ different communities which will help people to become less intolerant to people within different communities.

(c) Attitudes towards the roles of men ~~has~~ and women have changed but many employers would pick a man over a woman, as the woman is more likely to be off work for longer periods of time if she falls ~~preg~~ pregnant, which the employer would have to pay her for the majority of the time off. Also men are seen as the stronger gender and often picked over a woman even for office

Workman Even though attitudes have changed politics is still got a very high ratio of men to women with 94% of members in parliament men, which makes it harder for women to fight for more rights and laws within this.

(d) (i) I think if religious people ~~would~~ did work for racial harmony then it would happen much more ~~smoothly~~ smoothly but they would have to work in ~~racial~~ religious harmony which might be more difficult because they don't have the same views and beliefs. ~~It is better that they shouldn't have to~~ And not just religious people should have to work everyone should to keep it equal

(ii) Some people may disagree with me as they think racial harmony should come naturally which I agree with but I think if everyone works together to start it off then it

will work much better in the future and everyone will feel more accepted -



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Examiner Comments

- (b) In the question candidates are asked about government action. It does not need to refer to religion.
The candidate gives a personal opinion, which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks.
Reason one – 'bring communities closer together'.
Developed by – 'makes them work together'.
The rest is more development of the same point and cannot be credited.
One developed reason = 2 marks.
- (c) Candidates need not refer to a religion in this question.
This candidate has answered a question on how attitudes have NOT changed, which is not the question asked, so they can gain no marks. As they gain no marks for RS they cannot gain QWC marks.
No valid response = 0 marks.
- (d) This question is about racial harmony. No credit can be given for information about religion.
Candidates must refer to a religion other than Christianity
- (d) (i) The candidate does not say why it is a purely descriptive response and cannot be credited.
No valid reasons = 0 marks.
- (d) (ii) Reason one – 'should come naturally'.
The rest of the answer is the opposite view and cannot be credited.
One simple reason = 1 mark.



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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 religious freedom.

This is a partially correct answer as it does not specify religious belief.

(a) Religious freedom is being able to believe whatever you want.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is partially correct as it is not the glossary definition and it could refer to non-religious beliefs = 1 mark.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn Edexcel glossary definitions.

A fully correct answer.

(a) When you are free to follow any religion you want to or leave a religion if you want to.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Fully correct because it is a paraphrase of the glossary definition = 2 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.

Question 8 was a slightly more popular choice than question 7.

It was noticeable that many of questions 7 and 8 were not complete; candidates should be advised to spend about 20 minutes on each question

(b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion as to whether Christians should help to promote racial harmony, then give reasons for it. Many were able to use examples from scripture or examples to develop their reasons.

(c) This question was well answered by candidates who had been clearly taught about issues caused by multi-faith societies including conversion, multi-faith and marriage (bullet point 9 in the specification). It was not well answered by candidates who referred to general problems in society or referred to the benefits of multi-faith societies.

(d) Some candidates left this question blank as they had clearly run out of time. Most candidates were able to respond to the quote about the religious roles of men and women and give one or two reasons. Better responses referred to religious teachings and weaker ones were very one sided or referred to the roles in society rather than in religion.

An example of a good full mark answer.

(b) Yes because in modern day no races should be seen any differently. Christians should do this because the Bible says now everyone should be equal so this means they should promote racial harmony.

(c) This raises issues for ~~society~~ religious people because ~~peo~~ people will disagree on how to live in society. ~~Also~~ ~~because~~ It could start war and violence like it has today in places like Syria. People would disagree on what each other wear and if they show too much skin or what they eat or how they behave ~~at~~ people will start to hate

each other. people may even go against their own religions after seeing how others live and act.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement because as a christian I read the Bible and it tells you to treat everyone equally. Also because I believe that if people aren't treated equally it could cause ~~war~~ hate and violence. Also because women ~~are~~ are just as ~~as~~ important as men and men have no reason to believe that they aren't.

(ii) people of certain religions may disagree with me because they think men are stronger therefore they have more power over women. Also because they ~~are around~~ ~~a religion like Muslim~~ are Muslim and are told that men have power over women.



- (b) In the question candidates were asked about promoting racial harmony. No credit was given to religious harmony answers.
The candidate gives a personal opinion, which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks.
They then give development before the reason.
Development 1 – 'St Paul's quote'.
Reason one – 'because everyone is equal'.
Then again with reason 2 which also gives development before the reason.
Development 2 – 'Love thy neighbour'.
Reason two – 'fulfilling the command of Jesus'.
Two developed reasons = 4 marks.
- (c) Candidates must refer to multi faith society and the problems they cause to religious families – these must be religious issues and refer to racial issues.
Reason one – 'where the couple get married'.
Reason two – 'what religion their children will be when they get married'.
Reason three – 'conversion could be an issue in society'.
Reason four – 'cause conflict within the family'.
Four reasons = level 4.
There are more reasons in this answer but the maximum mark has been reached.
The candidates' QWC determines the upper or lower mark, not the quality of their RS.
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.
- (d) (i) Reason one – 'GOD made men and women at the same time'.
Reason two – 'St Paul's quote'.
Reason three – 'St Paul and Jesus are influential and they taught equality'.
Three reasons = 3 marks.
- (d) (ii) Reason one – Evangelical protestants do not allow female priests
Developed by – God created Adam first
Reason two – no female priests as priests represent Jesus
Two reasons one developed = 3 marks.



- (b) As in this answer candidates should separate their two reasons by using a new paragraph for each one.

This is a mixed answer. The candidate fails to develop answers in both so can only gain 2 marks out of the four. Then in common with many candidates they seemed to run out of time at the end and (d)(ii).

There is only one reason.

I do think that
(b) Yes - because St Paul said "we are neither Jew nor Greek - we are all equal to God" therefore St Paul is saying God sees everyone equally therefore Christians should too so Christians should promote racial harmony because everyone is equal.

Plus, Jesus said "Love thy neighbour" meaning love everyone no matter what. This means Christians should promote racial harmony because Jesus said to love everyone - by doing so you are fulfilling his command

(c) By living in a multi faith society problems could be caused like multi-faith marriages these issues could include where the couple get married or what religion their - children will be in when it grows up

Also the issue of conversion could be a problem in a multifaith society as a Christian could decide to be a Jew this could cause conflict within the family and even disownment.

Men + women should have equal rights in rel.

(d) (i) I agree because Christians ~~suggest~~ such as Liberal Protestants believe men and women should be equal in religion because God made men and women at the same time.

Also Liberal Protestants allow female priests because St Paul said 'men and women are equal in the eyes of Christ' and also Jesus said women and men were equal. St Paul and Jesus are big influences in Christianity so if they believe there should be equal rights in religion then there should be

(ii) However some people may disagree like Evangelical Protestants who don't allow female Priests and believe men + women have different roles because God created Adam first and the Eve was created to be his helper therefore men and women shouldn't be equal in religion

In addition, in Roman Catholic Churches they do not allow female Priests as Priests represent Jesus at the mass and Jesus was a man meaning women can't be Priests and shouldn't be equal to men in religion



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Examiner Comments

- (b) The candidate gives a personal opinion, which has to be indicated but does not receive any marks.
Reason one – 'no races should be seen as any different'.
Reason two – 'Bible says everyone should be equal' (this is not in speech marks so can be accepted as a paraphrase of St Paul's teachings on equality).
Two brief reasons = 2 marks
- (c) Candidates must refer to multi faith society and the problems they cause to religious families. These must be religious issues and refer to racial issues.
Reason one – 'disagree on how to live in society'.
Development – 'can cause violence and war'.
Reason two – 'disagree on what to wear'.
Reason three – 'disagree over what to eat'.
Three reasons, one developed = level 4.
There are more reasons in this answer but the maximum mark has been reached.
The candidates' QWC determines the upper or lower mark, not the quality of their RS.
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.
- (d) (i) Reason one – 'BIBLE tells you to treat everyone equally'.
Developed by – 'if they are not it can cause hate and violence'.
Reason two – 'men and women are just as important as each other and there are no reasons to believe that they are not'.
Two reasons, one simple and one developed = 3 marks.
- (d) (ii) Reason one – 'they think men are stronger and have more power over women'.
The rest is repetition or irrelevant so cannot be credited.
One simple reason = 1 mark.



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Examiner Tip

- (b) Candidates should develop their two reasons and use a new paragraph for each developed reason.
- (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.

Paper Summary

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

- candidates should ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in the (d)(i) part and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in the (d)(ii) rather than confusing the two halves. At least one of the reasons given in either (d)(i) or (d)(ii) must be explicitly religious to go beyond 3 marks
- the candidate should refer to either one religion (i.e. any religion), one religion other than Christianity or can specify that Christianity is referred to
- there are 4 extra marks added for spelling punctuation and grammar (SPaG)
- there were 4 marks added to section one 'Believing in God'. Information on this has been sent to all centres
- candidates should read the question carefully to get the correct meaning
- check through their answers before they complete the paper
- read the mark scheme before they take the exam, particularly in reading the definitions
- and finally – PLAN YOUR TIME.

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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