



# Examiners' Report

## June 2010

### GCSE Religious Studies 5RS02



Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our website at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com). If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our Ask The Expert email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>



ResultsPlus is Edexcel's free online tool that offers teachers unrivalled insight into exam performance.

You can use this valuable service to see how your students performed according to a range of criteria - at cohort, class or individual student level.

- Question-by-question exam analysis
- Skills maps linking exam performance back to areas of the specification
- Downloadable exam papers, mark schemes and examiner reports
- Comparisons to national performance

For more information on ResultsPlus, or to log in, visit [www.edexcel.com/resultsplus](http://www.edexcel.com/resultsplus).

To set up your ResultsPlus account, call 0844 576 0024

June 2010

Publications Code UG024579

All the material in this publication is copyright  
© Edexcel Ltd 2010

## Introduction

This is the first year the new specification for Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies has been assessed; it has introduced new topics and new assessment objectives. The specification is 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. Unit 2 (5RS02) has replaced Unit B (5563/64) as the unit which covers both Christianity.

Teachers and candidates should note these general points in order to improve candidate's achievement in future years:

There is a choice of two questions per section, each contains four sub questions - (a), (b), (c), (d). Candidates can either attempt all the sub-questions in the top questions (odd numbers) or all the sub-questions in the bottom question (even numbered). Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not be able to receive full marks for all their responses.

Candidates are asked to indicate which question they have answered by crossing in a box at the top of the paper, some candidates did not do this and they should be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation.

The number of lines given in the answer spaces are more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks; there is no need for candidates to write more than this. If candidates write more than can be inserted into the allocated lineage they may be using up too much time on that particular question and could place themselves at a disadvantage later in the paper. Almost all the candidates who used extra paper had already achieved maximum marks on that question.

There were a number of candidates who did not complete the final section of the examination 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 examination.

### Question 1(a)

The vast majority of candidates gained full marks for this question. There were some candidates who did not gain any marks either because they left the space blank or they defined an alternative key word. Candidates need to define 'free will' as a religious/theological word rather than just the general 'to make your own choices' definition.

(a) Free will means to have choose how to behave.



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an example of a partially correct answer worth 1 mark. It is an example of what you would do with free will rather than a definition of the term.



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the specification definition and use it when required.

### Question 1(b) (c) (d)

The candidates who selected this question approached it well.

In many cases part (b) highlighted the need for candidates to read the question carefully. Some candidates confused design with causation; others answered the question from a knowledge base of Paley's watch but did not give their own opinion or reasons for it. All (b) questions require candidates to give TWO reasons for their own opinion. Where candidates gave three or more brief reasons only 2 marks could be awarded.

The (c) question was answered well. Good responses included supported opinions giving reasons and evidence, and knowledge of why some people may choose not to believe in God as a result of unanswered prayers.

In parts (d)(i) and (d)(ii) the majority of candidates could give a brief reason about free will and the right of the child to have a choice, but did not explain why they had this opinion. Many candidates answered this question in the style of the legacy specification (d) question.

- (b) I think that the universe is designed because in the bible Genesis 1:1 it tells you how the world was created. "and then he created male and female they will have power over the fish:....."
- Another reason why I think the universe is designed is because Albert Einstein believed in the design argument in which he says that "there has to be a divine hand in it, which means that the world was created by God."
- (c) Unanswered prayers may lead some people not to believe in God because they have faith that their wishes or dreams will get fulfilled. They also leave everything to God and when their prayer is not

fulfilled they start to believe there is no God. People also think ~~that~~ that God doesn't exist.

(d) (i) I think that all religious parents should make their children believe in God because their faith would ~~be~~ increase more, they would become a proper Christian by going to the church and celebrating events like Christmas and Easter. If children believe in God then they could possibly pray to God by having a conversation with him which would relieve your problems if they were upset about something. I also think that if children go to Sunday School or church then their faith and religion will become more solid.

(ii) people might disagree with me because they might not want to follow the ways of that religion because they are bored or uninspired with it. they also would probably want to choose another religion instead of the one they were brought up with. People may find other religions interesting because of the different things they do and also because they don't believe in God and want to become an atheist.



### ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

In this example for part (b) the candidate talks about creation not design and therefore does not answer the question.

In part (c) the candidate provides one reason which is developed. The candidate recognises the purpose of prayer, and the consequence of it not being answered.

In (d)(i) two simple reasons are given for the candidate's view that parents should make their children believe in God.

Whilst in (d)(ii) a developed reason is provided about why some people may disagree with the candidate's point of view.



### ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

On (d)(ii) questions candidates need to give reasons for the opposite view point to their own.

### Question 2(a)

This question was answered well. The majority of the students were able to give a correct definition.

(a) An exercise where you attempt to communicate with God.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Some candidates gained only 1 mark for a partially correct answer, this was because they gave examples of prayer or tried to explain what prayer was but did not define the word. It is always advisable to make sure candidates know the specification definitions.



### Question 2(b) (c) (d)

In the majority of cases candidates answered this question well. They had obviously spent a lot of time studying evil and suffering and were able to use the arguments to their advantage. The specification identifies the religious experiences that should be studied and there was evidence that candidates understood how this would lead to belief in God.

(b) No because humans have free will therefore they are free to commit evil and cause suffering. It is the fault of humans not God. I believe that God does exist even though there is evil and suffering because it might be that God has a ~~per~~ purpose for us in this ~~life~~ life that we mere humans cannot see or understand. Also a

(c) A religious experience for example a numinous experience, which inspires awe and wonder in which we can feel God's presence may lead to a belief in God as it can make people question them-

selves and believe that there is something greater than us and that greater being is God.

Another ~~example~~ ~~reason why it may lead to a belief in God is because~~ example would be if an answered prayer this can lead to a belief in God because if God answered it this may be seen as evidence ~~for why~~ that God does exist. In the bible it says <sup>that</sup> Jesus resurrected this ~~this~~ religious experience can lead to a belief, ~~because~~ it ~~is~~ make people believe that there is a God because of the ~~miracles~~.

(d) (i) NO I believe that Christianity can explain how the world came to be and science explains why.  
 I believe that God created the Big Bang. ~~therefore~~ there must be something greater than us because the world is so orderly structured, complex and beautiful just to have been created on it's own. therefore there must have been something <sup>greater than us</sup> that designed it and that someone is God, therefore he must exist. William Paley compared the universe to a watch as they are both so complex and they both had to have a designer, who designed them. I also believe in the causation argument which ~~was~~ ~~by~~ Thomas Aquinas came up with everything has a cause there had to be a first cause and that first cause was God.

(ii) Someone who disagrees with me say that God isn't a good enough reason for why we and the universe created but science is as it has evidence and explains a more convincing theory this is what Richard Dawkins believed and he was an atheist. Also people may say science ~~is~~ has evidence that explains how the earth was created and ~~that is God where to exist and life is~~ and that there is no proof there that there is an afterlife


**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

When marking (b) questions the 'No' was considered to be the candidate's own opinion, and continues to be this until the candidate indicates otherwise, Eg. 'Some other people...'

For part (c) in the specification four examples of religious experience are identified. In this example response the candidate gives two examples and explains how they lead to belief in God. The majority of candidates who did this question were able to give the examples of conversion, numinous, prayer and conversion. However, in many cases candidates did not then link this to how they lead to belief in God.

### Question 3(a)

Most candidates gained full marks on this question, those that did not often confused it with another key word.

(a) Where people die and if god thinks they have had a good ~~life~~ life they come back and have another life.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This example shows a correct definition.

(a) When your body remains in ground where it stays until the end of the world. It then goes to God.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

Whereas this example shows an incorrect definition.

### Question 3(b) (c) (d)

This question produced some excellent answers and it is clear that teachers and students are having some lengthy discussions about issues surrounding life and death. These discussions are obviously enhanced by the use of media coverage of incidents such as assisted suicide and abortion. This kind learning activity should be encouraged as it is of clear benefit to the candidates.

The mark scheme for (d) was looking for a knowledge of the current law on euthanasia in the UK. However, many candidates thought euthanasia was legal and therefore did not answer the question correctly.

like an animal in another life.

(b) I believe that if someone wants an abortion then they should be able to, although I believe that if the baby is more than A month old then the baby should not be aborted. On the other hand under other circumstances if a woman does not know she's pregnant and a month has passed she should be aloud to abort her baby.

Everyone has their own point of view and should be able to be against or for abortion.

(c) Christians believe in life after death maybe because of Jesus's ressurection also they may believe in another life in heaven.

Christians believe that after death there is another life, a different life where you live as something different. Maybe you will come back as a different person or maybe an animal this is called reincarnation.

(d) (i) I believe that the laws on euthanasia are as they should be. If someone has no cause to live, because they are fully paralysed for example they should be allowed to choose to die if they want to and say their partner or parents etc. can't bear to see them suffering they should be allowed to choose whether they die or not (if whoever's suffering can't decide for themselves).



(ii) People may completely disagree because maybe they believe everyone should live as long as they possibly can suffering or not and they should die naturally when it's time to go.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

In this example for (b) the candidate describes what they think in the first paragraph, but does not give a reason why they think this. The second paragraph takes the question in another direction but gives a valid reason.

In part (c) the candidate gives just one reason - Jesus' resurrection.

In (d)(i) and (d)(ii) the candidate gives a good answer to the first part, but cannot go beyond three marks for the whole of (d) as they have not referred to Christianity.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Candidates need to know the difference between stating their opinion and giving reasons for it.

Candidates need to make sure that they refer to Christianity to gain marks overall in the (d) question.

### Question 4(a)

This question presented some challenge for candidates who had not learned the specification definition and wrote answers which included murder, euthanasia etc.

(a) Assisted suicide means when someone helps someone else take their own life, for example a doctor giving a patient an overdose on drugs.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This is an example of a correct answer worth two marks.

Notice how the candidate had crossed out the printed '(b)' and started their answer to (b) further down the page - this is advisable if candidates run out of space on the (a) question.



## Question 4(b) (c) (d)

for example a doctor giving a patient an overdose on drugs.

(b) most christians are against Euthanasia because they think that the only person that has the right to take away your life is god. because he was the first one to give it to you. Christians also believe that Euthanasia is playing god. making a decision which is not yours to make, but only gods.

(d) 'God knew you before you were born' Jeremiah 1  
(or) I agree with 'no christian should have an abortion' I think its wrong to take away a child's life without considering its feelings just because it

can't talk or communicate ~~at~~ at this point in time. 'Thou shall not kill'

Exodus 20 verse 2-17 Strongly disagrees with taking away somebody's life and think that it's incredibly unfair to make a choice like that. 'God created man in his own image'

Genesis 1 verse 27 This says that god decided when and how this baby or child was going to be ~~born~~ born, and we don't have the right to ~~abort~~ deliberately remove the fetus from the womb, as it doesn't belong to us. God sent us the gift of a baby and it's not our choice to abort it in anyway. Roman Catholics

strongly agree that abortion is wrong. the church of England agree that abortion is wrong but understand that in some cases it is accepted, for example the risk of the mothers life.

Abortion act first came legal in 1967, allowing women to terminate up to the

28<sup>th</sup> week. It then changed 'in 1990  
'Human fertilisation and embryonic act'  
where you could terminate up to only the 24<sup>th</sup>  
week.

(ii) some people may disagree with me  
and think abortion is okay. For example  
rape can lead to aborting a child  
because of what has happened and the  
kid not being able to cope with  
being told how it was conceived and  
who the parents of the child are.

Another reason why someone may lead  
to aborting a child could be the risk  
of the mother's life, and the only  
way to save it would be deliberately  
removing the fetus from the womb.

(c) Most Christians are against Euthanasia  
because they think it's <sup>only</sup> ~~god~~ <sup>god</sup> who can  
decide when and how we die 'Thou  
shalt not kill' Exodus 20 verse 1-17 clearly  
states it's wrong. They believe that  
Euthanasia is playing god ~~and~~ ~~testing~~  
~~how loving he is~~ by taking  
the situation into their own hands.

and deciding themselves when they can die. "if we live, we live for the lord, if we die we die for the lord, so weather we live or die we belong to the lord." Roman 14 verse 8

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

In this example the questions are answered in the incorrect order, but these answers are still credited.

Clearly indicated changes to the order of responses or where the candidate has written their answers does not affect the marking, especially if they have been clearly labelled.

In this example the answer to part (b) gives no correct information. The candidate clearly states that the reasons given are those of Christians not their own. The question requires the candidate's own opinion with reasons.

For part (c) the candidate has provided two developed reasons and has written coherently thereby fulfilling the QWC descriptor in the mark scheme.

Parts (d)(i) and (d)(ii) both have two developed reasons and there are reasons which refer to Christianity.

### Question 5(a)

This question posed some challenges for candidates as only just over half gained two marks. To get full marks candidates needed to show knowledge that adultery included sex and marriage.

(a) Adultery is when you are having sex outside Marriage-



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This response about sex outside of marriage is partially correct. Sex outside of YOUR marriage would have been fully correct. This is a small but crucial difference.

(a) Adultery is when you have sex ~~in~~ outside of marriage - sex with someone who isn't your husband or wife



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This is an example of a correct definition.



**Question 5(b) (c) (d)**

This section for some reason caused many candidates to commit a rubric offence. This is when candidates don't follow the instructions on the question paper and answer a mixture of sub-questions eg 5(b), 6(c), 5(d). If candidates answer a mixture of sub-questions they can only be awarded the marks of the whole question they gained the most marks from.

not there married partner.

(b) Family life is very important if you have a happy family life then the in general you are happy and also if you are happy you tend to do better.

An un-happy family life tends to lead to more problems more negativity in family members lives.

I believe family life is valuable and very important.

~~(c) Christians should use contraception because then there would be more pregnancy's and more abortions.~~

~~Also christians are against abortion. More suffering baby's would be ~~born~~ born and therefor more baby's will die.~~

Most christians are against sex outside of marriage because in christianity sex is a sacred thing what shows love and when you love some you get married in front of the eyes of god. It is supposedly only then when you have sexual intercourse with your partner as an act of love.

(d) (i) Not using contraception would lead to more pregnancy's which would lead ~~lead~~ to more abortions and christians are against abortion.

So there for I do not agree that christians should not use contreception.

(ii) people may disagree because not using contreception would bring more new life into the world.

**ResultsPlus**

## Examiner Comments

In this example the response to part (b) is a developed reason, although it does not say 'because' the answer still gives a reason.

Here the part (c) response is answering the question 6(c) rather than 5(c). This had to be awarded zero marks as the overall mark for question 5 answers gave the candidate overall higher marks.

For both (d)(i) and (d)(ii) one brief reason is given.

**ResultsPlus**

## Examiner Tip

Candidates may find it useful to cross out the question they are not answering, to avoid rubric offences.



### Question 6(a)

This question not answered as well as some of the other key word questions. New words to the specification seemed to cause a difficulty for many candidates who appeared to not be prepared for them.

(a) .....  
Procreation is when you have children.  
.....

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This is an example of a correct answer.

## Question 6(b) (c) (d)

(b) I do think that attitudes have changed towards homosexuality.

People nowadays are much more accepting of people and their sexuality maybe due to the lack of religious teaching. I also think that attitudes have changed because years ago you would not have been accepted if you were gay - now there are homosexuals on TV as people are not so against it anymore.

(c) Most Christians are against sex outside of marriage because sex to them is only for when you want to have children. If you have sex outside of marriage, the woman runs

the risk of becoming pregnant.

This is a problem for most Christians as they believe that a child should be brought up in a stable family background - one in which the parents are married. This is so that the child is supported and has a happy life.

Sex, to Christians, is a big commitment so they are against promiscuity and save it until they are married.

- (d) (i) I think that all Christians should allow divorce. If the couple are unhappy in their relationship then it might be damaging to their health if they are forced to stay in it. It shouldn't matter about your religion. Christian, or not, I think that they should put their happiness first as if you became too unhappy with life there could be fatal consequences.
- (ii) Some Christians might disagree with me because they believe once you are married - that's it - you can't go back. If the couple have a family, Roman Catholics believe that the couple must stay together for the sake of their children even if they are miserable.


**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

In this example the candidate gave one developed reason and one brief reason for part (b). Marks are awarded for TWO reasons.

In part (c) there is one developed reason which is coherently written and therefore fulfils the QWC descriptor.

In (d)(i) the candidate gives two brief reasons. Whilst in (d)(ii) they give one brief reason. The candidate repeats the same point and does not develop it or offer a new reason.


**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Candidates need to know Christian attitudes and teachings about issues. In some questions the 'social' or non-religious answers can be credited to level one, but candidates should be aware that reference to teachings/attitudes is essential.

### Question 7(a)

This section provided some good answers, but overall candidates seem less prepared for this section. Less than half of candidates answering this question gained full marks.

(a) ~~or~~ A small group of a different culture / religion.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is an example of a partially correct answer.

(a) An ethnic minority is a ~~gn~~ religion, ~~sex~~ a sexuality or racial background that has the smallest number of people in it within a community or society.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is an example of a correct answer.

### Question 7(b) (c) (d)

This question was more popular than question 8, but many candidates did not complete this section, and left blank pages suggesting that they ran out of time on this question.

(b) Yes they are ~~been~~ Because we get to learn <sup>About</sup> ~~about~~ these religions ~~to~~ how they live their teachings like the ~~Koran~~ Kuran taste their food their Dancing Loads of things.

(c) Some people support equal rights for women because they follow what the Bible says & there is neither Greek or Jew Male or female we are all in one christ Jesus.

(d) (i) Racism would still exist because of other skin colour's like Black people and Asian people etc But not that much.

(ii) people may disagree because if they are same religion they should treat each other the same like the Bible says love your ~~neighbour~~ <sup>enemy</sup> like you love your self like you should love ~~your enemy~~ <sup>one another</sup> ~~one another~~ one other.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

In this example two brief reasons were given for part (b), however this could also be read as one developed reason, in any case the response is worth 2 marks.

In part (c) there is one reason given; coherently written meaning it fulfils the QWC descriptor in the mark scheme for this level.

In (d)(i) there is no valid reason given, so no marks could be awarded. However, in (d)(ii) one brief reason is given gaining one mark.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Candidates should be encouraged to add to their answers to develop them.

### Question 8(a)

This question posed some difficulties for candidates, with less than a third of candidates gaining full marks. This word was often confused with other key words from this section and incorrect definitions were frequently provided.

(a) Religious pluralism is when you choose your own way of teaching the religion.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

This is an example of an incorrect definition which defines religious freedom.

**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Candidates should be familiar with the key words and encouraged to use them in lessons, this would avoid a confusion of definitions.

**Question 8(b) (c) (d)**

The question was not done well, in comparison to other questions. This section overall appears to be the weakest section. This could be because of timing and candidates should be encouraged to practice time allocation across the paper. The (d) item appeared to cause problems for some as candidates did not seem to understand the term community cohesion.

(b) I do believe that roles ~~have~~ of men and women have changed in the UK.

For example many years ago in the UK only men were allowed to work or vote and women were to stay at home cook, clean and look after children, but it has now changed and that women could have any job they wanted to and that men and women are now been treated ~~equa~~ equally and even women are allowed to be prime minister or in charge of company, which many years ago they weren't allowed to do.

\*either Jew nor Greek, either bond nor free, either male or female. . . .



(c) Christians should help to promote racial harmony because it would make a better society and that that they wouldn't want any discrimination or any ~~the~~ racial happening

(d) (i) I agree with that statement.



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Comments

In this example the answer to part (b) has two developed reasons and is therefore worth 4 marks.

In (c) no valid Christian reason is given and candidates must refer to Christian teaching and/or attitudes to gain marks on this question.

In part (d)(i) the candidate does not offer a reason, so is not worth any marks. For (d)(ii) there is no response at all, so again it cannot be awarded any marks.



### ResultsPlus

#### Examiner Tip

Candidate need to plan their time in the examination, they have about 20 minutes per question.

## Grade Boundries

Grade	Max. Mark	*A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	80	67	57	47	38	31	24	18	12	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	0



Further copies of this publication are available from  
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467

Fax 01623 450481

Email [publications@linneydirect.com](mailto:publications@linneydirect.com)

Order Code UG024579 June 2010

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit  
[www.edexcel.com/quals](http://www.edexcel.com/quals)

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750  
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

