

Examiners' Report

June 2013

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS02 01

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Introduction

The specification continues to be a very popular course as teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both interests and educates young people. The variety of choice within the new specification allows teachers to teach the course that most suits their students and as such the examination is unique. Entry numbers decreased this year as the option of doing the GCSE via a modular route was removed. However numbers overall are increasing for the full course as schools become aware that the short course GCSE will not be included in schools performance tables in the near future.

Unit 2 is studied from a Christian perspective. 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.

The mean on this paper showed that as a result of year 11 only entry, the knowledge and understanding of the subject amongst the candidates had increased. The addition of extra SPG marks may have also affected the mean.

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

In Section 1 of the examination 'Believing in God', question 1 was more popular than question 2. Although overall candidates who opted for question 2 scored higher marks.

(a) What is a miracle?

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

Candidates who achieved 2 marks on this question were able to give the glossary definition confidently. The majority of candidates answered this question well.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content, expressing their own responses to the issues and questions raised using reasons and evidence, whilst evaluating alternative points of view.

The examination paper requires the candidates to give reasoned opinions in (b) and (d)(i) responses. In (c) responses, the knowledge and understanding of the required content is assessed. In (d)(ii) the evaluation of the alternative point of view is assessed. All aspects require the study of Christian attitudes and teachings to the issues.

(b) Do you think unanswered prayers prove God does not exist?

Candidates responded positively to this question and many gave developed reasons. The candidates were familiar with the Christian responses to unanswered prayers. Where it was answered less well, candidates gave a definition of an unanswered prayer.

Candidates should be advised to give two reasons to support one point of view. This supports them in exploring their own thoughts and developing answers, thus gaining higher marks.

(c) Explain how the causation argument may lead to belief in God.

Candidates found this question difficult and many confused causation with design and did not answer the question. Some candidates outlined the causation argument but did not explain how this might lead to belief in God.

(d) "Natural evil is proof that God did not create the world".

Many candidates misunderstood the (d) statement and responded to why natural evil would lead to belief or non-belief in God. The question required candidates to have a working knowledge of the term natural evil and be able to use it throughout the section.

1 (a) What is a miracle?

1 (b) Do you think unanswered prayers prove God does not exist?

Give two reasons for your answer.

- (a) A miracle is something good that happens which cannot be explained by science.
- (b) I do not think that unanswered prayers prove that God does not exist. This is because some prayers contradict with each other so if God ~~answered both~~ could not answer both as it is impossible for both things to happen. Also, God may not answer a prayer because he ~~wants to give~~ wants to teach someone a lesson and allow people to ~~have~~ be able to solve problems without ~~God's~~ his help.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The candidates performed well at both parts of this question. The mark scheme in the (a) item distinguished between unexplained happenings and those that break the laws of science. The wording of this question allowed for candidates to gain marks for examples. Candidates answered that they did not believe God must have done it to gain 2 marks. Events such as child birth were not credited as they do not break the laws of science.

This candidate gives two clear reasons for (b) and develops each one confidently. Thus gaining 4 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

(a) Candidates should learn and give the glossary definitions to be confident of gaining 2 marks.

(b) Candidates must give two developed reasons. There are many examples where candidates give four simple reasons, these cannot be credited beyond 2 marks.

Explain how the causation argument may lead to belief in God.

(c) Explain how the causation argument may lead to a belief in God.

The causation argument is the belief that all things that have an effect must've been caused. For example you are here because your parents procreated & they are here because their parents procreated etc. The idea of this is that when all things rewind to their first cause we get to God.

Many people believe this theory as it can go alongside a lot of scientific theories & religious ones. For example many believe the 'big bang' to be the creation of the world. With the causation

argument you can still believe this but perhaps God ^{brought} the material together or maybe his effect was earlier.

This argument doesn't involve a lot of conflict which may also lead people to believe in God, as his message was peace on Earth. However a few questions which cannot be answered by this argument is who created God?



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The majority of candidates were not prepared well for this bullet point on the specification. Many muddled the design and causation arguments. In some cases they read the question to mean what causes arguments about belief in God.

In this example the candidate answers (c) in the (d) space. This is not an issue as marks are awarded appropriately as normal. The candidate gives a comprehensive explanation giving one reason written coherently and therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QWC (Quality of Written Communication).

The levels are reached at four points as indicated below: "been caused" "got to God" "was earlier" "who created God".

Level 4 = 8 marks.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should note that if they are writing anywhere other than the space provided, they should clearly indicate this to the examiner. It is better to use the blank pages at the end of the answer booklet than to attach loose papers.

"Natural evil is proof that God did not create the world."

- (d) (i) Yes this is true as if God was, as Christianity teaches, omnipotent he would want to stop evil from happening. If he was omniscient he would know how to stop evil and suffering. If God was omnipotent he would have the power to rid of evil and suffering. Yet they still do occur which surely shows us if he was all three of these he could stop natural evil and thus he cannot have created the world.
- (ii) On the other hand no as if God has punished us ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed him. Also under Christian teachings we all will all be tested by God through evil to see who are the true believers and who choose to follow God. It also allows us to follow in Jesus's footsteps as he suffered but was the son of God. The bible teaches that without evil we cannot fully understand God. Also God has a plan that we cannot see or know about yet.



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Examiner Comments

Candidates either did really well at this question or misunderstood it completely. Some candidates answered a question about evil and suffering proving God does not exist, or just gave reasons why God does not exist in general.

This candidate answers the question set and gains full marks
Three simple reasons given either side.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates must be prepared to read the question and answer the question set to gain marks.

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

In Section 1 of the examination 'Believing in God', question 1 was more popular than question 2. Although overall candidates who opted for question 2 scored higher marks.

(a) What is meant by moral evil?

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

(b) Do you think miracles have happened?

Candidates responded positively to this question and many gave developed reasons. The candidates were familiar with the Christian examples of miracles. Where it was answered less well, candidates gave a definition of a miracle.

Candidates should be advised to begin this answer with the phrase "I think..." or "I believe..." to make sure they are giving a personal opinion, followed by two reasons.

(c) Explain why scientific explanation of how the world began may lead some people not to believe in God.

This question was generally answered well by candidates. The majority were able to give reasons that scientific explanations would cause people to reject belief in God.

(d) "The media helps people to believe in God"

- (a) What is meant by moral evil?
- (b) Do you think miracles have happened?
- Give two reasons for your answer.

(a) moral evil is suffering that is caused by humans

(b) Yes I do believe miracles have happened because in the bible it tells us that many miracles have happened like the virgin birth which breaks the laws of science, the church also teaches about miracles about Jesus resurrection which breaks the laws of science, and if the church says it has ^{happened}, and the bible, which is the word of God it must be true.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (a) 2 marks for a correct definition
- (b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons.
- Reason one: reached at "happened " developed to "science".
- Reason two: reached at "breaks the laws" developed to "it must be true".
- Two developed reasons = 4 marks
- The SPG mark for this question was awarded at the intermediate level = 2 marks.
- In this response the candidate made a lot of mistakes but it did not impact on the understanding of the answer. The SPG mark is awarded for the whole question not just (a) and (b).



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Words needing capital letters are given in the specification under 'use of capital letters'. Candidate use of specialist terms goes beyond the glossary and they are credited for using specialist vocabulary that would be taught as part of the general teaching of religious studies.

(c) Explain why scientific explanations of how the world began may lead some people not to believe in God.

(d) "The media helps people to believe in God."

In your answer you should refer to Christianity.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion.

(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you.

(c) Scientific explanations may lead some people not to believe in God because there is ~~proof~~ evidence. The cosmological

theory is the idea that the earth started with a big explosion in which the energy and matter collided and formed the universe, there has been evidence for this and no evidence that God made the world in six days. Another scientific reason that may make someone not believe in God is Darwin's evolutionary theory, this is the idea that the nature started as bacteria and has evolved over millions of years into different life forms. The proof for this is that the world is still expanding today. There is also scientific evidence that there is no heaven and hell, so this is another reason why someone may not

believe in God. Finally a person may not believe in God because scientists have discovered many things that have caused the universe to be like it is today, and there is evidence.

(d) (i) ~~I~~ ^{Yes} I do feel that ~~have mixed feelings about~~
the media helps a person believe in God because if they watch 'Songs of Praise' then they are joining in with religious ceremonies. Another reason why it make someone believe in God is because it is encouraging people to worship. Media can also help a person believe in God because it can teach the religion by covering lots of themes in a fun way.

(ii) However, a Christian may disagree with me - because they might feel that for a person to believe in God then they should go to church. They might also disagree because the media doesn't teach everything and they might feel that you can't believe

In God it's you don't know
everything. Another reason why
they might disagree is because
they don't interact properly by watching
tv and listening to the radio.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Candidates answered the questions well on how the world began. Some concerns were expressed by examiners about the accuracy of the scientific understanding shown. In some cases candidates used scientific information but did not answer the question as to how this might lead to non belief in God.

The majority of candidates were not prepared for the media bullet point from this section of the specification. Many answered questions on media from other sections of the specification giving answers to 'if it was fair to religious people' or 'should the media criticise religion'.

In this example the candidate gains full 23 marks.



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Examiner Tip

To be successful, candidates need to prepare for the examination based on the specification.

Question 3 (a)

This section is on Matters of Life and Death.

In this section question 4 was more popular than question 3.

3 (a) What is abortion?

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates who did not gain 2 marks usually gave a definition based on their knowledge but was misleading about what it meant.

(a) Abortion is the removal of a foetus from a womb before it can survive.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Candidates who thought they knew the definition, but had not learned the glossary definition, tended to give answers which could be misunderstood as murder of a small child eg getting rid of a baby.

This example gained 2 marks for a correct definition.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should learn the glossary definitions.

(a) Abortion is when a women decides to get rid of their baby.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate in this example gives a description of what they understand abortion to be. However it is not the glossary definition and does not indicate that the 'baby' is still in the womb nor does it mention the termination of a pregnancy. The candidate gained no marks.



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Examiner Tip

Use specialist terms such as foetus and refer to glossary definitions frequently to help you remember them.

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 4 was more popular than question 3.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points.

(b) Do you think life after death is impossible?

The majority of candidates answered this question well.

Candidates must develop reasons and this can be achieved by offering an example.

(c) Explain why euthanasia is a controversial issue.

Candidates who did well understood different attitudes to euthanasia and why this might make euthanasia a controversial issue. In some responses candidates gave arguments for and against euthanasia showing a lack of understanding of the word controversial. In (c) items the candidate's own opinion is not required.

(d) The media should not be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death.

Candidates responded well to this question and many referred to specific examples of where the media had criticised attitudes to abortion or euthanasia that could be a Christian response because of their beliefs and teachings. The format of splitting those who agree and those who disagree worked well in this section.

(b) Do you think life after death is impossible? Give two reasons for your answer.

(c) Explain why euthanasia is a controversial issue.

(b) I think that life after death is impossible because there's no scientific proof that your soul goes up to heaven or you reincarnate or that you come back as a ghost like all these myths and legends want you to believe and if we did do this, with all this new modern technology this would have been proven by now. Secondly because when you die that's it. There's nothing left in you so you can't physically come back.

(c) ~~Some~~ ~~peo~~ Euthanasia is a controversial issue because on one hand ~~fe~~ if your christian it saids in the bible in the ten commandments "Thou shall not murder" & and helping someone

die is like helping them to ~~be~~ commit suicide and that is wrong. Also if the patient is completely paralysed and is even unable to speak ~~for~~ properly then you don't know what they really want and you end up making the decision for them.

[However non christians or some christians believe that letting them suffer is also wrong and is far worse ~~than~~ ^{then} letting them die. Also you can never know what they really want because if for example minimal disease like Stephen Hawking has, they are completely unable to speak and letting them ~~die~~ ^{suffer} is really hard for families.

~~In the UK it is illegal~~

In the european union it ~~is~~ ^{isn't} illegal to euthanasia is illegal apart from the netherlands so and many people in the UK disagree with this and want the law to change. At the moment people has to travel either to Holland or ~~swit~~ ^{switzerland} & Switzerland is a popular place to end someone's life.

Another argument about ~~ethan~~ euthanasia is how do you know that someone wants to end a patient's life just to claim there will and get benefits. You just don't know.

~~Here~~ In conclusion I think euthanasia should be made legal because suffering is far worse than letting them die.

(d) (i) I ~~egg~~ agree that the media should not be allowed to ~~criticise~~ ^{criticise} what religions say about matters of life and death because it's their religion and should be kept private and is their own private matter therefore no one should intervene and criticise. Different ~~relig~~ ^{relig} ~~secondly~~ different religions say different things about life after death. Christians believe you go up to heaven whereas ~~hinduism~~ ^{hindu} hindu's believe you become reincarnated. And if the media did intervene then it could cause arguments and fights.

(iii) Someone may disagree with me because if the media started criticising other religions then people may rejoin another religion or convert. Another reason is that some ~~religions~~ ^{religions} want to be the best religion. There is, so if other religions get criticised and look bad then their religion will look the best.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) This candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two reasons with one developed

Reason one: "scientific proof" developed to "proven by now"

Reason two: "come back"

Two reasons one developed = 3 marks

(c) The candidate gives two correct reasons written coherently and therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QWC.

"that is wrong" "decision for them" "worse than letting them die" "you just don't know"

Level 4 = 8 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

When preparing for the (b) items candidates should be aware that TWO distinctive developed reasons should be given. If they give three simple reasons, they will only gain 2 marks.

The specification bullet point is why euthanasia is a controversial issue. However many candidates did not seem to have understood that this was asking about the pivotal issues that cause the controversy and, instead, gave an answer to why some people agree with euthanasia and some do not. This was awarded accordingly.

This question was answered well by many candidates.

(b) I believe that life after death is impossible. This is because there is no scientific evidence to show that life after death is possible and with so little evidence of a 'heaven' or 'hell' makes me believe that there is no afterlife because there has been no real 'contact' from the after life.

Also I believe that if there is a life after death then there would be nothing for you anyway, because science shows that all brain activity stops when someone dies so you wouldn't be able to feel or do anything making it more like a death after death.

(c) Euthanasia is such a controversial issue because it creates a huge moral dilemma with both the person who wants euthanasia and the person that has to give it. When someone is in huge amounts

of pain, it is argued that the kindest thing, if there is no alternative, is to relieve this pain through assisted suicide, making it a morally kind thing to do if the person wants it. However there is a moral dilemma with whoever has to ~~do this~~ apply the euthanasia because it can be emotionally scarring to the doctor or nurse who has to do this. Making it possibly more damaging

Also there are religious implications. Christianity says that only God can take a life, so if a doctor does it, it may go against the patient's religion or perhaps the doctor's religion so may cause a huge religious ~~out rage~~ out rage against whoever condones it. Also it is sometimes impossible for the patient to say whether he/she wants to die and there is people say that there is always hope and the possibility that someone can be brought back from a seemingly futile condition making it difficult for the patient or the family to allow it to occur.

(d) (i) I agree, the media shouldn't be allowed to criticise what religions say about life and death. It is their belief and they choose what to believe in and the media shouldn't be allowed to criticise anyone's belief as long as it isn't causing any harm to anyone around them. Also, as long as religions don't criticise other religions or people on their beliefs about life and death, then it isn't fair on the religion.

(iii) However some people argue that some fundamentalists Christians force their views of life and death upon others in a dangerous way meaning that the media should therefore have every right to criticise religions views on life and death. For example when fundamentalists in America blow up an abortion doctor's car some people say ^{we} should allow the media to criticise religions ~~y~~ views on life and death.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons.

Reason one: "death is possible" developed to "from the afterlife"

Reason two: "able to feel" developed to "death after death"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks.

(c) The candidate gives four correct reasons written coherently and therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QWC.

"huge moral dilemma" "if the person wants it" "more damaging" "only God can take life"

Level 4 = 8 marks

(d)(i) A personal opinion supported by three simple reasons = 3 marks

"choose what to believe in" "around them" "fair to religion"

(d)(ii) A personal opinion supported by one fully developed reason = 3 marks

"others in a dangerous way" developed by example of "abortion doctor's car"

This refers to some Christians' views and therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

On (b) items it is essential that the candidate gives a personal opinion. I believe or I think. Candidates who begin Christians think cannot be awarded marks unless they say 'and I am a Christian' as it is not their own opinion.

Question 4 (a)

Question 4 was the more popular choice in this section. Many candidates avoided the media questions.

Question 4(a) - What is meant by paranormal? This was not answered well by candidates. There is a distinction between 'what is meant by' and 'what is' meant that the majority of candidates gained only 1 mark.

The majority of candidates gave partially correct answers to this question. The mark scheme and definition has two parts.

There are two parts to the definition from the glossary. The unexplained event or happening and the spiritual or supernatural cause. Both elements needed to be present for the 2 marks.

(a) Paranormal is an event which can not be explained by science or any other means, e.g. ghosts



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate gives one part of the required glossary definition, the unexplained, but not the spiritual nature or cause of the event. The example adds nothing to the answer and the candidate gains 1 mark.

The candidate in this example answers the question 'what is paranormal?'

(a) The paranormal are things science can't explain e.g. ghosts.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This is an example of paranormal and therefore gains 1 mark.

(a) Something that is said to be caused by a spirit.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In this example the candidate gives the spiritual cause but not the event or happening that is unexplained, therefore gains 1 mark.

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 4 was more popular than question 3.

b) Do you think belief in life after death should affect the way Christians live their lives?

Candidates did well on this question. The better answers referred to the parable of the Sheep and Goats.

(c) Explain why some Christians accept abortion.

The vast majority of candidates were able to answer well but those who gave arguments for and against abortion limited the marks they could be given. It was disappointing to see many 'secular' type answers rather than those referring to religious teachings and concepts such as the lesser of two evils. Candidates should read questions carefully as to what they need to include in their response.

(d) "Euthanasia should never be allowed"

Candidates again were well prepared for this question and could give good answers.

(b) Yes, if Christians believe in the after life they are likely to want to do good in this life so they are rewarded in the next. Believing they will be judged, Christians should strive to do God's work and make him happy.

Also believing in the after life should affect how Christians ~~can~~ mourn the death of loved ones. If they believe they are with God after they have died they will be comforted.

(c) Some Christians accept abortion if they are more liberal. Liberal Christians may not believe that life starts at conception. Christians who are ^{Roman} Catholic believe life starts at

conception and so an abortion is killing a life. However liberal Christians believe life may start when the foetus gets a heart beat, when it is classed as viable at 24 weeks and can survive outside of the womb or at the moment of birth. Therefore these Christians are not against abortion as it is not the ending of a life.

Also Liberal Christians believe that they have to be kind and do God's good work. They accept that without abortion there would be too much suffering as the child may be born with a severe disability, the mother's mental or physical health may suffer and the quality of life of the mother's other children may be affected. When abortion seems to be the lesser of two evils, some Christians accept it.

In conclusion, ^{some} Christians accept abortion because they are unsure as to when life begins or they believe it to be a kindness in some circumstances.

(d) (i) Yes, I believe ~~that~~ euthanasia should never be allowed because I believe in the sanctity of life. Life is holy and belongs to God, therefore only He should be able to give it or end it. Also doctors take an oath to save lives. Allowing euthanasia contradicts this vow and they should not be killing people. Finally the person who is dying may change their mind when it is too late or

have been pressured by family members. If it ^{may} ~~be~~ ^{not} what they want or not their decision it should never be allowed.

(iii) Some people may believe Euthanasia should be allowed because it can be seen as a kindness. Medical advances mean people are kept alive for longer in pain when they should be allowed a painless death. Also a person may have lost their dignity because of their sickness. Allowing them to choose when and how they die will give them the feeling of responsibility and they may gain back their dignity.



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Examiner Comments

(b) This candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons

Reason one: "next" developed to "happy"

Reason two: "loved ones" developed to "comforted"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks.

(c) The candidate gives two reasons with one fully developed, written coherently and therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QWC.

"heart beat" developed to "ending of a life"

The second paragraph lists several reasons for abortion being the lesser of two evils taking the answer to Level 4.

In this question the reasons Christians allow abortion can either be as per the mark scheme 'the most loving thing to do', the 'lesser of two reasons' and then developed with examples or each example may be a reason that a Christian would allow abortion eg 'the mother's life is at risk.'

Level 4 = 8 marks

(d)(i) A personal opinion supported by three simple reasons = 3 marks

"belongs" "killing" "allowed"

(d)(ii) A personal opinion supported by three simple reasons = 3 marks

"Kindness" "death" "dignity"

The candidate refers to Christian teaching and therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should break up their reasons into paragraphs so that they can see clearly how many they have given.

Question 5 (a)

This section is Marriage and the Family.

In this section question 5 was more popular than question 6.

5(a) What is meant by faithfulness?

The vast majority of candidates answered this question well gaining 2 marks. Candidates who did not gain 2 marks usually gave a definition based on their knowledge but were not clear about what it meant.

What is meant by faithfulness?

(a) Faithfulness is when you are married to a person and stay with them and only have sex with them and no body else.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate gained 2 marks.



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Examiner Tip

The candidates are given key words in the sections of the specification. Faithfulness is in Section 3 and refers to marriage and the family and not belief in God, which is Section 1.

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 5 was more popular than question 6.

(b) Do you think marriage is important?

The majority of candidates answered this question well.

(c) Explain why some Christians do not allow divorce.

Candidates who did well understood different attitudes to divorce. In some responses candidates gave arguments for and against allowing divorce having not read the question carefully. Many candidates used secular reasons for allowing divorce and did not refer to Christian reasons.

(d) Sex before marriage is wrong.

There were some excellent answers to this question which clearly held great interest to the candidates. Answers were mostly based on religious and sociological ideas surrounding sex before marriage. The better answers to this question discussed issues such as security and sanctity of marriage. Other candidates launched into opinions about why anyone should tell anyone else what they should and should not do, and as these did not provide specific information about sex before marriage, they were not credited.

Candidates should give three reasons for each side to secure marks, starting with I agree or disagree and offering a Christian response somewhere in the answer.

The (b) item in this response shows how marking might be flexible given the response of the candidate.

(b) I think marriage is important because the church teaches us marriage is a gift from God and we should take advantage of this. Marriage is an important thing to do in life as it is to have a long life-long relationship with someone and to have a fulfilling sex life. It is to always have someone to support and comfort you and for you to do so for them. Another important thing in marriage is to create a Christian family and to have children which is something God teaches to do in life. It is why he put Adam and Eve on earth and the reason he gave us sex. It is important to create a Christian family to bring more Christians into the world and bring your children up as Christians.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) This candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons. The candidate has given one brief reason followed by two developed reasons. Marks were awarded for the two developed reasons.

Reason one: "sex life" developed to "love and support"

Reason two: "to create a family" developed to "up as Christians"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates do not have to fill the space provided and full marks can be achieved within the space given. They should avoid spending too long on these earlier questions to avoid running out of time in Section 4.

It is not advised that candidates use extra paper.

(c) Some Christians do not allow divorce because these two people made vows together, they made these vows in the

eyes of God, if the reason is ~~that they don't love~~ they made a commitment to each other so they should stick to it.

(d) (i) Yes I do agree that sex before marriage is wrong because you see teenagers these days that all they want is sex. horrible and disgusting, you should be married and committed to your partner before you make love, it's like to seal the deal of the marriage, and then they can go on to have children and create a family.

(ii) Some people may disagree because what if that Person is only marrying you for that one thing also, people should be allowed to try out different types of bodys. you fall in love with someone you have a connection with.



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Examiner Comments

(c) This candidate gives one correct reason written coherently and therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QWC. The level is reached at "stick at it"

Level 1 = 2 marks

(d)(i) A personal opinion supported by two simple reasons = 2 marks

"you make love" "create a family"

(d)(ii) One simple reason

"connection with" = 1 mark



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

The candidate does not refer to Christian teaching and therefore cannot be awarded more than the 3 marks overall.

Candidates must make reference to Christianity in their (d) answers.

Question 6 (a)

(a) What is a nuclear family?

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for nuclear family and those who did not were usually able to define it using alternative wording. Some were awarded partially correct marks if they did not indicate that they all lived together as a unit.

(a) A nuclear family is where the parents are still together and they have children



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate gives a partially correct definition, but does not mention living together as a unit. 1 mark

(a) A nuclear family is one where the mother, father and children live together as a unit.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

A fully correct example. 2 marks

(a) A nuclear family is when two people get married who have children to other partners. E.g. step brother, / step dad / mum, / step sister.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

An example of a candidate giving the incorrect answer which is another key word definition.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates should practice the key words and also use them on a daily basis so they become familiar with their meanings.

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 5 was more popular than question 6.

This was answered well and most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether Christians should accept homosexuality and most linked their reasons to modern understanding of homosexuality or Biblical teachings about homosexuality.

(c) Explain how an issue arising from this section, marriage and the family, has been presented in one form of media.

Candidates were not prepared for this question. The majority of candidates appear to have studied more than one form of media and used the variety of media to answer a general media question, but could only be credited for more than one example of media.

Examples from 'television' would be one form of media. The candidates also mistakenly gave examples of issues from other sections of the examination, for example, using interfaith marriage which is in Section 4.

(d) "Attitudes to divorce have not really changed"

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

(b) I think some Christians should allow homosexuality because, firstly, the Bible states that it is a sin for two people of the same gender to lay together, so it shouldn't be allowed. However, the Bible shows attitudes of the time, and viewpoints have changed. So, because Jesus taught that you should do unto others as you would have them do unto you, some Christians should accept homosexuals because it is the loving thing to do.

(c) The idea of accepting different types of families has been addressed in the television show *Modern Family*. This show portrays 3 families; one nuclear family, one

reconstituted family and one homosexual couple. The show also portrays the idea that although they are all different, they all get along.

Firstly, it shows that in the homosexual couple, Mitchell is afraid of his father's old-fashioned views on him having adopted a child with his partner, whereas he knows his sister Claire will be happy for him which shows how attitudes have changed over time.

Also, it shows how even though Jay and Gloria are very different in age and have their own children, they are also very happy. Although their relationship is criticized and they are mocked they still have happiness and an accepting family. Furthermore, even though Phil and Claire have a nuclear family, they are shown having just as many problems as the others and that their lives are no better or worse because they are still all together which overall shows a theme of equality throughout the show.

(d) (i) I disagree because, firstly, many more people get divorced today, some more than once, and the law allows it. Also, you are not treated any worse in society if you have been divorced and people are very used to the idea that it doesn't bother them.

Furthermore, many liberal Christians will allow divorce, especially if it will make them and therefore their children happier.

(ii) Some people may disagree because marriage is a sacred bond in the eyes of God which cannot be undone. Also, some Christians such as evangelicists will accuse you of adultery if you get divorced then re-married because in the eyes of God you are still married to your first spouse.

In addition, one of the main purposes of marriage is to have children and raise them in a stable environment which a divorce does not create so is frowned upon because it could damage the children.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This candidate achieves full marks and demonstrates a good answer on the media question.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Candidates should give three reasons for each side to secure marks on a (d) item, starting with I agree or disagree and offering a Christian response somewhere in the answer.

Question 7 (a)

(a) What is sexism?

Most candidates knew the glossary definition for sexism and were awarded full marks. However, some candidates used examples and gained only partial marks

(a) Sexism is where someone is discriminated because of their gender.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

A full mark definition - gaining 2 marks

(a) The discrimination of someone for liking the same sex of gender.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This refers to homophobia or discrimination against people who are homosexual and is therefore incorrect.

(a) Sexism is when someone loves to help out females but wait with males or the other way round



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

1 mark partially correct definition
An example of an act of sexism

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 7 was more popular than question 8.

(b) Do you think the government can prevent discrimination?

Most candidates could give their own opinion but the reasons given were overall weak.

(c) Explain how religions work to promote community cohesion.

Candidates had a limited knowledge of what religious communities do to promote community cohesion and many answered the question 'why' they worked towards it and therefore gaining only Level 1.

(d) "Racial harmony is possible in the UK".

Most candidates were able to respond to the quote. It was positive to note that the majority of candidates no longer thought racism was an issue in their experience of the world and that today in the UK the majority of people were treated equally.

This year there was an increase in candidates who committed a rubric offence. This is a concern as candidates lose a serious number of marks in this way.

(b) I think that the government could stop discrimination by making the laws for discrimination harsher and making the punishment bigger. They could also open up a discrimination help line for people who are being discriminated. They could introduce help into schools for people being discriminated against.

(c) The Church helps asylum seekers and immigrants workers by using Christian aid (a charity to help others) they do this by offering gifts and/or

money to the people who need it.

(d) (i) Religious people can achieve community cohesion by learning about other people's religions because if you know about things then you tend to respect it more. Also people could visit other people's religions and experiment to get a better out look on how they live.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) This candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons.

Reason one: "harsher" developed to "bigger"

Reason two: "being discriminated" developed to "discriminated against"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks

THE CANDIDATE THEN SWITCHES TO QUESTION 8 which means that the best of the marks either for question 7 or 8 are awarded, but inevitably marks are lost.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

After choosing which question they are going to answer in a section, candidates should cross out the question they do not intend to answer and ensure that they answer all four parts of the same question.

Question 8 (a)

(a) What is meant by interfaith marriage?

Most candidates gained 2 marks for this question.

(a) Inter-faith marriages are when two people of different religions get married and live as man and wife.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

A full mark answer.

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 7 was more popular than question 8.

(b) Do you think religious people should try and convert people to their religion?

Most candidates could give their own opinion but the reasons given were overall weak. Many gave an answer to a question about forcing beliefs on other people or 'making' people convert, which was not the response needed.

(c) Explain why the Church works to help people who are seeking asylum and/or immigrant workers.

Many candidates could explain what the Church did to support people who are seeking asylum and/or immigrant workers and limited themselves to Level 1 answers. The best candidates used Biblical teachings to support the reasons churches help.

(d) "Religious people can achieve community cohesion".

Most candidates were able to respond to the quote about the possibility of community cohesion but did not give Christian reasons 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 fully discuss both their own reasons and those that other people might hold.

(b) no because ~~the~~ the bible says that we are all one in Jesus Christ, so every religion should be valued.

I believe that every religion has a path to God and they ~~are~~ all should be respected. Converting people is not very important as God loves everyone no matter what their religion.

(c) In the Bible it says that "we are all one in Jesus Christ" so it is important for Christians to show that they care for asylum seekers as

we are the same.

Caring for these people for Christians would be following Jesus's teaching of "love thy neighbour" so that is why they help. It would be a loving

thing to do.

Also in the Bible Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan that shows that you should help the out-siders, and welcome them as if they were Jesus.

Additionally Christians help because of the parable of the Sheep & the Goat. This story shows that the people that are good and help others go to heaven and have eternal life. Christians want that so they work hard to show it.

(d) (i) I agree because ^{In the Bible} ~~that~~ Jesus said that "in my father's house ~~there~~ there are many rooms". This shows that he accepted everyone so Christians should promote cohesion.

Additionally "love thy neighbour" is a good way to achieve community cohesion as Christians want to love each person.

The Bible said not to judge others or you will be judged yourself. That is a reason why Religious Christians want to achieve community cohesion without judgment.

(ii) However some say that, ^{because} "no one gets to God except through me" it says that in the Bible so religious people don't want communities to do that.

~~Also~~ Religious People might not be the best people to promote community because

some christians like the Roman Catholics believe in conversion.

Some Religious people in christianity are discriminative against gender. The Evangelical & conservative believe in st pauls reasoning that women should remain silent in church. This is not the best example of communities working together to achieve a better quality of life.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) This candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons

Reason one: "Jesus Christ" developed to "valued"

Reason two: "respected" developed to "their religion"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks

(c) The candidate gives four simple reasons written coherently and therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QWC.

"are the same" "love your neighbour" "good Samaritan" "hard to show it"

Level 4 = 8 marks

(d)(i) A personal opinion supported by three simple reasons = 3 marks

"promote cohesion" "Love each person" "without judgement"

(d)(ii) Three simple reasons = 3 marks

"to do that" "conversion" "quality of life"



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should use the space provided, but if they indicate they have made mistakes, they should use the blank pages at the end of the paper to write corrected answers. There is no need to attach extra sheets.

(b) I do not believe that people should convert other people to their own religion as no one should be forced to do anything they don't want to. Also I believe in free will and God believes that people have the right to make their own decisions. Also, people are entitled to their own belief and have their own point of view and this could help promote discrimination and racism.

(c) The law in the UK is that to ~~use~~ be here in this country you need a visa, ~~so~~ you have to be accepted by the court and you need to have a good

reason. Asylum Seekers and immigrant workers often flee to ~~the~~ the UK for safety. They may be in a life or death situation and so they have to leave immediately. ~~Then~~ When they arrive they have to ask permission to be here. Those who don't are more likely to stand less chance. The Christians know that they have to follow the bible because they believe it will help them get into heaven. The bible says: "love thy neighbour like you love yourself." This means that God wanted Christians to help each other and care for other people. The bible

also helps to show that God wanted people to share wealth and help those in need. So Christians help out in charities such as the Red Cross to help these people and show God that they are worthy enough to go to heaven as their souls are pure and they haven't sinned.

(d) (i) I agree because Christians are taught by God that they should all work together in one society and learn to respect other people's opinions and beliefs. There are many different religions and they can all work together to stop discrimination and racism by coming together as one and working together. Community cohesion helps people to accept each other for who they are and view religions equally.

(ii) People may disagree because they believe that if all these people were put together there's a chance that it could cause tension and make community cohesion non-existent ~~by ~~making~~~~ because of discrimination.

and racism. This would mean that people would only follow one religion and the rest would be non existence. This would cause a bad view in society and ~~mean~~ everywhere would be grouped off for example only Christians could shop in tescos which could cause an uprising.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) This candidate gives a personal opinion supported by one developed reason. Reason one: "want to" developed to "own decision" One developed reason = 2 marks

(c) The candidate gives four correct reasons written coherently and therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QWC.

"heaven" "love yourself" "wealth" "sinned"

Level 4 = 8 marks

(d)(i) A personal opinion supported by three simple reasons = 3 marks

"respect" "working together" "equally"

(d)(ii) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

"tension" "racism" "uprising"

Reference is made to Christian teaching and therefore more than the 3 marks overall can be awarded.

Paper Summary

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

- Candidates should continue to link topics to their everyday lives and the society around them, as was seen in some interesting answers produced for this paper.
- There is a choice of two questions per section and each of these has four sub-questions. Candidates can either attempt the sub-questions in the top questions - odd numbers - or the sub-questions in the bottom question - even numbers. Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all their responses and as such are at a clear disadvantage.
- Candidates are asked to indicate which question they have answered by putting a cross in the appropriate box at the top of the paper. Some candidates did not do this and they should do this as part of examination preparation.
- The number of lines on the question paper are more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks. There is no need for candidates to write more than this. Any candidate who needs extra space can use that space allocated to other questions as long as they clearly indicate on their paper that this is what they have done.
- A number of candidates did not complete the final section due to timing difficulties. Candidates should spend about twenty minutes per question, leaving ten minutes to check through work at the end of the paper.

In addition, some general points can be made on how best to answer the various question types:

- Maximum marks on the Part (a) questions are easily gained by learning the Edexcel glossary definitions and this is a constant feature throughout the paper.
- Only the candidate's own point of view can be credited in Part (b) questions. Candidates should concentrate on stating their opinion and writing two separate reasons for it, each in a distinct paragraph. They should then develop each of the reasons with an example or a quotation.
- Candidates can gain the higher mark within the level in Part (c) by writing coherently as outlined in the Quality of Written Communication descriptor in the Mark Scheme.
- Many of the Part (d) questions produced interesting answers. However, candidates should ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in Part (d) (i) and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in Part d(ii), rather than confusing the two halves. At least one of the reasons given in either Part d(i) or Part d(ii) must refer in some way to Roman Catholic Christianity to go beyond 3 marks.

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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