

# Examiners' Report

## June 2015

### 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.

Unit 2 allows the study of Christianity which is the majority religion in the UK. The course engages the interest of young people, it addresses many moral and spiritual issues affecting young people today and importantly it fulfills all the requirements for the present Key Stage 4 statutory Religious Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) What does natural evil mean?

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; this includes the key words which are 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.

Write your answer here:

(a) Something which causes suffering which has nothing to do with humans e.g. <sup>Tsunami.</sup> Bomb



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The majority of candidates gained 2 marks for this question. Some candidates gave examples of natural evil which was last year's question and therefore only gained 1 mark.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should be prepared to give the glossary definition.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet points:

- The main features of a Christian upbringing and how it may lead to belief in God.
- How religious experiences, as seen in the numinous, conversion, miracles and prayer, may lead to belief in God
- Why evil and suffering may lead some people not to believe in God.

Write your answer here:

(a) Natural evil is something unrelated to humans which causes great suffering, for example, earthquakes.

As a liberal Christian,

(b) I think everyone should have a religious upbringing because if you have a religious upbringing you are baptised. Baptisms mean that promises we make to your parents and God parents to protect you so a religious upbringing provides

a child with safety and protection which is beneficial for a child's well being so everyone should have a religious upbringing.

I think everyone should have a religious upbringing because, ~~the bible teaches you right from wrong so teaches children morals which is why everyone should have a religious upbringing~~ ~~as it makes better people with good sense of right and wrong.~~

~~with promises~~ you are taught to read the bible. The bible teaches you right from wrong so teaches children morals which is why everyone should have a religious ~~up~~ upbringing as it makes better people with good sense of right and wrong.

(c) ~~I do not agree that suffering proves~~ Religious experience such as a numinous experience ~~prove~~ create a positive outcome on people's lives. ~~As~~ This means the cause

of the experience has to be positive and may well be a benevolent God, leading to a belief in God.

Religious experiences such as miracles may lead to a belief in God because miracles break the laws of science and have no other explanation. The only being powerful enough to break the laws of science is an omnipotent God, leading to a belief in God.

Religious experiences such as seeing or ~~hearing~~ hearing God's voice provide evidence for belief in God. If you have evidence, you are going to believe in God.

Atheists who do not usually pray may pray in extreme circumstances. If their prayer is answered, ~~they~~ it is a religious experience and may lead them to believe that there is a God.



(d) (i) ~~I disagree that says~~ I do not agree that suffering proves God does not exist because I believe suffering is a test from God to test ~~us~~ if we are faithful. <sup>I also think that</sup> ~~and that~~ God will never give anyone too much suffering. For example, even though Job suffers he stays faithful to God therefore I <sup>think that</sup> ~~disagree with the statement~~ suffering ~~does not~~ <sup>disprove</sup> God's existence.

I also disagree with the statement because I believe that the devil causes suffering, not God. ~~God~~ God is separate from the devil so suffering does not disprove God's existence. I do not agree that suffering disproves God's existence because God has given people free will which may lead to suffering. This means I do not think suffering proves God does not exist.

(ii) An atheist may disagree with me and say that suffering proves God does not exist because if suffering was a test, everyone should have equal amounts but that is not the case. ~~That~~ This is why an atheist would agree that suffering proves God does not exist.

An atheist would also say that if God is all powerful, he should be able to stop the devil. This is why that atheist would agree that suffering proves God does not exist.

An atheist would also say that, although God has given people free will which may lead to suffering, they would rather live like a robot than have a child suffer which is why they believe that suffering proves God does not exist.

Do you think everyone should have a religious upbringing?

Candidates responded positively to this question and many gave developed reasons. Where it was answered less well, candidates had a lack of understanding of the lack of religious freedom if everyone was forced to bring up children in a certain way.

In this example of (b) candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons.

Reason one: reached at "safety and protection" developed by the comment previously to "parents promise...at baptism"

Reason two: reached at "teaches you right from wrong" developed to better people with a good sense of right and wrong"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks.

Explain how religious experiences may lead people to believe in God.

Candidates did well at identifying religious experiences as defined by the specification, however often described them rather than giving an explanation of how this might lead to belief in God in this example the candidate gives a comprehensive explanation giving one reason written coherently. Therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC.

"numinous ..... leading to belief in God"

"no other explanation ..... leading to belief in God"

"hearing God's voice .... evidence"

"if prayer is answered it is a religious experience ..... there is a God"

Level 4 = 8 marks

"Suffering proves that God exists"

Many candidates misunderstood the (d) statement and responded to does God exist. Many candidates went away from the question and answered to why God did or did not exist.

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

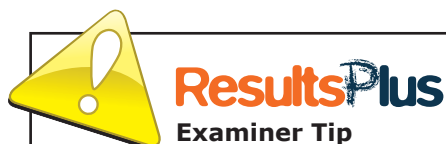
"test from God" developed by "never too much suffering" and again with Job.... Disprove God's existence"

(dii) Three simple reasons = 3 marks

"not the case"

"stop the devil"

"promote goodness"



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.

Candidates who run out of space should be encouraged to make a note to the examiner and continue to use the blank pages at the end of the booklet.



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

Question 2 was less popular with candidates than question 1.

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

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

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

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

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet points:

- The argument from design and how it may, or may not, lead to belief
- How two television and/or radio programmes and/or films about religion may affect a person's attitude to belief in God.
- How religious experiences, as seen in the numinous, conversion, miracles and prayer, may lead to belief in God.

Write your answer here:

- (a) A an attempt to contact God. This is done usually through words.
- (b) I do not think that God designed the world. The first reason for this is that there are theories in science that suggest otherwise. An example of this is the Big bang. I believe this so therefore don't believe that it was God. Secondly, the design argument requires a being to have existed before matter. I personally think that this is ~~an~~ impossible so don't believe it. As I said, I believe in what can be justified by science.

(c) Films may affect a person's belief in God because they may pose both positive and negative views on God. People will then be exposed to other views and be changed by them. Secondly, in films such as *Battle of Britain*, there are

different interpretations of God. This may affect the way people think of God. They may imagine him as he was seen or depicted in a film. Thirdly, people may view God more humorously after comedies such as *The Vicar of Dibley*. This is as the programme poses humorously views on ~~the~~ Christianity. Finally, people who do not believe in God may be introduced to the idea of it through films and TV. They may take the idea so that they start believing in God.

(d) (i) I agree because it is less likely for things to have no scientific explanation now. This is as human knowledge is greater than previously. Secondly, fewer people are religious now than previously. They will therefore be less likely to believe in miracles. Thirdly, it would be potentially mocked, even by some Christians, as it is not commonly accepted anymore. People therefore won't claim to have seen miracles.

(ii) People may disagree as some Christians still believe in miracles. This is as they were said to have happened in the Bible. Secondly, if there is something that can't be explained, people may treat it as a miracle because they don't know what to do. Finally, people have hope that miracles can happen. An example is if someone has an ill relative ~~and~~ then they may believe in miracles in the hope that the world may be better.

(a) What is prayer? The candidate in this example gained 2 marks.

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.

(b) Do you think God designed the world?

In this example the candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons

Reason one: reached at "that suggest otherwise" developed by "an example is the big bang."

Reason two: reached at "existed before matter" developed by "justified by science"

Those candidates that knew what numinous meant responded positively to this question and many gave developed reasons. Many candidates tried to say they believed in the scientific explanations and said they believed 'science created the world' which was not correct. Many candidates also read this question as 'Do you think God created the world?' Which is a different question.

(c) Explain how television programmes and/or radio programmes and/or films might affect a person's belief in God. In this example the candidate gives one brief reason written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC: we do not penalise for difficult handwriting.

"changed by them"

The two middle reasons do not link to a change in belief in God

"start believing in God"

This question was generally answered well by candidates. The majority were able to identify programmes that supported and lead to the questioning of belief in God.

(d) "Miracles cannot happen today"

This question was intended to assess arguments for and against the possibilities of miracles happening today, however many candidates answered it in terms of whether miracles had ever happened. Many referred to the scientific explanations of miracles. Over all the question was answered well.

In this example

(di) A personal opinion supported by three brief reasons = 3 marks

"now"

"miracles"

"have seen miracles"

(dii) Three brief reasons = 3 marks

"Bible"

"know what to do"

"make them better"

The candidate refers to Christian teachings in a useful way to answer the question, therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall. If a candidate refers to Christianity and it is not worthy of marks then they do not reach this threshold.



## ResultsPlus

**Examiner Tip**

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 on (b) questions.

We are proud that just because writing is difficult to read does not mean that the candidate is disadvantaged and the candidate is awarded marks for their religious knowledge; the standard of writing does not impact on the QWC or SPAG. In this example the candidate gains 4 marks for SPAG.



### Question 3 (a)

This section is Matters of Life and Death.

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

3(a) What is voluntary euthanasia?

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.

The vast majority of students answered this question well gaining two marks. Candidates who did not again two marks usually gave a definition based on their knowledge but were misleading about what it meant.

The majority of candidates did not gain full marks for this question as they did not use the glossary definition. They 'knew' what it was but were unable to define the word accurately.

(a) Voluntary Euthanasia means where someone volunteers to help someone die.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate in this example gained no marks as the definition was not correct.

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

(a) Voluntary euthanasia is asking for your life to end.

(b) Not all Christians should be against abortion as sometimes it is the most loving thing to do as the child or mother may die during child birth. My second reason



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gains 1 mark for a partially correct answer.

Asking for your life to end (no mention of pain) and it has not necessarily happened.



- (a) voluntary euthanasia is the painless killing of a seriously ill person who has asked for death.
- (b) ~~that~~ I don't think all Christians should be against abortion because if the mother is seriously ill, she should have an abortion <sup>this is</sup> because if she dies in labour the child will have a poor



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

In this example the candidate gives the glossary definition and gains full marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

This example includes all 'parts' of the definition: the person's choice, the person's death, the person's illness.

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

Question 3 was more popular with candidates than question 4.

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

(c) This question required candidates to explain why one Christian agency would work towards the end of world poverty. Many candidates named an organisation and described in depth what they did to help the poor but did not say why. Some candidates made valiant guesses, because God does not want people to suffer. Those who were most successful were able to reference the relevant Bible verses that indicated Christian duty to help the poor.

(d) Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to state their own opinion about the credibility of evidence surrounding the paranormal.

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

(b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether Christians should be against abortion. The lower achieving candidates gave reasons such as rape and being too young.

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

(d) Candidates were able to give at least one reason in response to this, but many did not use religious texts in their responses which would have enhanced answers greatly.

(b) I think that Christians should be against abortion, this is because some believe that the child is born at the moment of contraception. Therefore abortion would be murder which breaks one of the 10 commandments. Christians should also be against abortion as God tells us to be faithful in number and that sex should only be for procreation, therefore abortion is disrespecting God.

(c) Christian Aid is an organisation run by Christians that help poor and unfortunate people around the world who lack water and food and money.

This agency does this because God teaches us to love your neighbour, what this means is that we should help all those who suffer, and God tries to teach us and test us for heaven to help people suffer. As this agency is run by Christians they are likely to listen to God, as loving your neighbour is also one of the 10 commandments.

Christians also believe in doing good this is something that Jesus teaches us from the parable, 'a good samaritan'. By helping these poor unfortunate people this agency are listening and following Jesus' teachings of the Good Samaritan.

~~God teaches us also to be~~ The teaching of the Good Samaritan is to help the poor and helpless therefore this is what Christian Aid are doing, trying to help/rescue the helpless to try and end world poverty.

(d) (i) I agree. Christianity teaches us that Jesus rose from the dead which proves that there is life after death. In the modern day this can be shown through reincarnation, ghosts, mediums. Another reason in which Christians may believe in life after death is that when we die our soul goes to heaven.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me - this can be because some are atheists so don't believe that Jesus resurrected ~~and~~ and haven't experienced paranormal activity therefore doubt that there is such thing.

Atheists also believe that there is no soul and when we die our body just rots away. And also that our mind has been scientifically proven that it won't function without brain which dies when we die.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

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

Reason one: "at the moment of conception" (the candidate has said born – but means alive) developed by "10 commandments"

Reason two: "be fruitful in number" developed by "distresses God"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks

(c) The candidate gives two developed reasons written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC.

"love your neighbour" developed by "to get to heaven"

"something that Jesus teaches developed by "the Good Samaritan"

Level four = 8 marks

(di) A personal opinion supported by one developed reason = 2 marks

The candidate explains that there is evidence of "life after death" – and in the modern day it is shown through the examples of paranormal.

(dii) Three simple reasons = 3 marks

doubt there is such a thing"

"rots away"

"dies when we die"

This refers to Christianity, therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

Candidates on the (b) and (di) items must begin their answers with 'I think' or 'I agree'.

### Question 4 (a)

What is reincarnation?

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

(a) Reincarnation is the belief that a soul lives on after the host dies and can be brought back to life. For example Jesus was reincarnated on Easter Sunday.



#### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The candidate was awarded 1 mark for a partially correct answer.

The mark was awarded for "the soul lives on after the host dies" and can be brought back to life - we ignored the reference to Jesus.



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

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

(c) The vast majority of answers stated why the law on euthanasia should be changed and were very good. Candidates were able to answer both by giving a number of reasons.

(d) Most candidates responded well to the question and were able to state their own opinion about the cause of poverty. Some candidates' answers were particularly one sided.

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

(b) I think that the media should be allowed to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death.

Firstly because the media have the freedom of speech, therefore are free to post/criticise what they wish to.

Secondly because although they are criticising, they are also teaching people of others beliefs and thoughts on matters of life and death. They are educating the world.

(c) Some people may think that euthanasia should be legal in the UK because firstly, they believe that it is the right thing to do.

~~Secondly~~ This is called following Situation Ethics, thinking about what is the most loving thing to do. Whether it being non-voluntary or voluntary euthanasia, Situation ethics should be considered and the most loving act should be performed.

Another reason is that ~~people~~ people want to follow the rule of 'treat others as you want them to treat you.' Therefore, it is about taking into account what you would do in that situation. If you were ill, or in a coma, would you want someone to end your life for you?

Also, ~~there are~~ people would have to put themselves in others shoes. If they had a loved one in a particular situation, would they chose to end that persons life?

It is down to understanding others needs.

(d) (i) This statement is saying that 'Natural disasters are responsible for World Poverty' and I disagree.

Firstly because people are the cause for a lot of poverty. For example, wars produce millions of refugees; people who have been forced to leave their country, but with nowhere to go. They are forced to live in slums with no homes or food. War causes <sup>most</sup> world poverty. A ~~chr~~ Christian would agree with me by saying that God teaches of 'love thy neighbour'. Despite Natural disasters, if people helped each other (such as countries like ~~the~~ the UK and the U.S giving money to the poorer countries) then world poverty would not exist.

(ii) People may disagree with me and argue that Natural disasters destroy homes, therefore leaving people with nowhere to live but the streets.

Secondly because Natural disasters such as tsunamis wipe out food supplies, leaving the ~~world~~ world in poverty.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Comments

(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two brief reasons, but does not develop them

Reason one: "freedom of speech"

Reason two: "life and death!"

Two brief reasons = 2 marks

(c) The candidate gives two reasons written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC.

"the most loving act should be performed"

"end your life for you"

Level 2 = 4 marks

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

"a lot of poverty"

"where to go"

"poverty would not exist"

(dii) Two simple reasons = 2 marks

"live but the streets"

"world poverty"

The candidate refers to Christian teachings in a useful way to answer the question, therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall. If a candidate refers to Christianity and it is not worthy of marks then they do not reach this threshold.



## ResultsPlus

### Examiner Tip

In this question the reasons people think euthanasia should be legal can either be as in the mark scheme 'the most loving thing to do'; the 'lesser of two evils' etc. However the development should be more than what is given here. This candidate gives a repeat of the reasons in different words; it is not development.

### Question 5 (a)

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

(a) A re-constituted family is when two  
seperate families mery into one another



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This example gained two marks as the candidate implies step children when referring to two families joining to make one. The assumption is that a family has children.

### Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

(b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether sex outside marriage is acceptable, most gave two reasons either for or against but a few made a distinction between extra marital and premarital sex and gave coherent answers where they gave reasons, explaining why adultery was wrong and premarital sex was acceptable. Less able students tended to think only of one reason.

(c) Most candidates responded successfully to this question and were able to demonstrate knowledge of Biblical references. Where candidates lost marks they explained the different attitudes to homosexuality and could only be awarded marks for reasons those Christians did not accept it.

(d) 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 the use of contraception. The best answers to this question discussed issues such as natural and artificial contraception and the different methods of contraception.

Questions 5 and 6 were equally popular with candidates.

(b) I do not agree because breaking your vow to God and your partner. Also it's a sin because they have made a promise "till death do us part". It is adultery if you have sex with someone other than your partner and this goes against the 10 commandment that God wrote. "Thou shall not commit adultery".

(c) Christians do not accept homosexuality because it tells us that Adam and Eve were the first people on earth. (in the Bible) which links to God's plan of pro-creation which a homosexual couple can not do. The Bible teaches: "man should not lie with another man". So this is why Christians do not accept homosexuality.



(d) (i) I don't agree because contraception prevents kids that are too young having children. Also it protects against diseases such as HIV and STD's. Lastly it can act as a way of family planning for women who may not want more children.

(ii) People disagree because they believe it is stopping procreation by going against God's plan. Also this may lead more people to have sex with multiple partners when they are not married.

In this example

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

Reason one: "Partner" developed by "it is a sin"

Reason two: "10 commandments" developed by "commit adultery"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks

(c) The candidate gives two reasons written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC.

"cannot do"

"another man"

Level two = 4 marks

(di) A personal opinion supported by three reasons = 3 marks

"children"

"STD'S"

"Not want more children"

(dii) Two reasons = 2 marks

"God's plan"

"Not married"

In this response the candidate refers to Christian teachings in a useful way to answer the question, therefore they can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall. If a candidate refers to Christianity and it is not worthy of marks then they do not reach this threshold.



**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.

Candidates must refer to Christianity correctly in a (d) item to reach the threshold for 6 marks.

### Question 6 (a)

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

(a) Marrying a different person after another marriage didn't work out.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The majority of students gained 2 marks for this question.

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

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

(c) This question was well answered by the majority of candidates. It required candidates to discuss why there are different types of contraception available.

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

Question five and six were of equal popularity

(b) I feel very strongly that attitudes towards homosexuality have changed because firstly 10, 15, 20 years ago gay couples were not allowed to marry and they had almost no rights, however today they are given a civil partnership which legally gives them the same rights to a husband and wife. I also think that many people have become a lot more accepting of homosexuality, because they realise that being gay is not a choice and that it is a natural thing so they feel that God would have not created homosexuality if he didn't accept of it.

(c) There are different methods of contraception for example natural and physical. The natural methods of contraception include natural family planning or NFP which is where you

only have sex when the woman is the least fertile. Christians like this method of contraception because it is natural. However if you use contraception methods such as the pill, condoms, the morning after pill ect this is a type of physical contraception which is used if you want to have sex but you don't want a baby. Christians don't like this method as much because you are physically not allowing the sperm and egg to meet so it is unnatural. Also they don't like this method of contraception, because God created sex to have children, and not really for fun.

(d) (i) I don't really agree that divorce is bad for family life, because if 2 people don't love each other anymore then it could be worse for the children seeing their parents fighting all the time, and they would prefer both parents to be happy. Also it is possible for the children to live with both parents so it wouldn't be that bad. Also if your parents were in an abusive relationship you would <sup>want</sup> ~~want~~ to help the vulnerable one so they don't get hurt, so sometimes a divorce is the best and only option.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because the Bible says that divorce and re-marriage is wrong, therefore if the Bible says it is wrong they will believe it. They also feel that you should not have a divorce because in the wedding ceremony, you say your vows "I will love and to cherish until death do us apart" meaning I will love you until the day I die, so if you are getting a divorce, you are breaking your vows which you swore to keep.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) In this example the candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons:

Reason one: "legally gives" developed by "and wife"

Reason two: "gay is not a choice" developed by "accept of it"

(c) The candidate gives one developed reason written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC.

"because it is natural" developed by "so it is unnatural"

We are looking for reasons that people use different types of contraception, not the description of different types.

Level two = 4 marks

(di) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three correct reasons = 3 marks

"For the children"

"Fighting all the time"

"And only opinion"

(dii) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

"Re-marriage is wrong"

"say your vows"

"to keep"



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

If the candidate does not start "I think" the examiner is asked to assume that it is the candidate's point of view until they tell us otherwise.



## Question 7 (a)

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

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

(a) Religious freedom is the freedom to believe in what you want.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate refers to the right to believe what you want. This is accepted as partially correct.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Belief can be hidden. Religious freedom is the right to demonstrate your beliefs.

(a) Religious Freedom is the freedom to live  
~~live~~ with your religious opinions and the  
(b) freedom preach it.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A fully correct example.

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

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

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

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

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

Question 7 was an equally popular choice as question 8.

(b) I think that men and women should have ~~ex~~ equal rights in religion because God created everyone, so therefore ~~every~~ everyone should have equal rights. This is why ~~mean~~ men and women should have equal rights in religion.

Also, men and women should have equal rights in religion because ~~for~~ they are all equal in Christianity. This is because Jesus said 'there is neither man nor woman for you are all one in Christ Jesus'. This means everyone is equal in the eyes of Jesus. This is why men and women should have equal rights in religion.

(c) Christians help to promote racial harmony because Jesus did. This is because Jesus taught ~~of the Parable~~ that 'there is neither Jew nor Gentile for we are all one in

Christ Jesus', this means no matter what race you are, you are equal in ~~the~~ Christianity. This is why Christians help promote racial harmony.

Also Christians help promote racial harmony because it is compassionate. This is because it is the lesser of two evils. This means that helping to promote racial harmony is less of an evil than not promoting. This is ~~the~~ why Christians help promote racial harmony.

Also Christians help promote racial harmony because they should help those suffering from racism. This is because they ~~teach~~ teach to 'speak up for those with no ~~the~~ voice'. This means they should help to promote racial harmony for those who can not ask. This ~~is~~ is why Christians should help promote racial harmony.

(d) (i) I disagree that all religious people should try to convert other religions because it is not loving. This is because Jesus taught to 'love thy neighbour' and it is not loving to force people to convert. This is why all religious people should not try to convert ~~other~~ other religions.

Also, I disagree that all religious people should ~~not~~ try to convert other religions because it is promoting superiority. This is because by trying to convert other religions it is saying that my religion is better than yours. This is why all ~~religions~~ religious people ~~we~~ should not try to convert other religions.

ii) Someone e.g. an Evangelical Christian may disagree with me because they have the full truth. This means that they try to convert others because ~~they~~ they ~~do~~ do not have the full truth. This is why all religious people should try to convert other religions.

Also someone may disagree with me because you can only reach God through Christianity. This is because in the bible, it says 'we are all one in Christ Jesus'. This ~~is~~ is why all religious people should try to convert other ~~religions~~ religions.



(b) This candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two reasons; one of which is developed

Reason one: "God created everything"

Reason two: "equal in Christianity" developed by "in the eyes of Jesus"

Two reasons, one developed = 3marks

(c) This candidate gives four reasons which are written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC.

"Jesus did"

"promote racial harmony"

"compassionate"

"No voice"

Level four = 8 marks

(di) A personal opinion supported by three reasons = 3 marks

"not loving"

"other religious"

"promoting superiority"

(dii) Two reasons = 2 marks

"full truth"

"Christianity"



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should be taught to use their time wisely as many candidates appear to run out of time or stamina.

### Question 8 (a)

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

- (a) Judging some before you know their full story.
- (b) I think they should have equal rights as women shouldn't need to stay at home and cook and clean if they



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

An example of a correct definition.



### Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

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

(c) This question was well answered by candidates who had been clearly taught about the reasons Christians held views about other religions, however many students could not give the reasons and only described the attitudes.

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

Most candidates were able to respond to the quote they been taught about community cohesion very well and there were able reasons why the government should do more. Weaker responses were very one sided and failed to include a Christian response.

(b) I think that a multi ethnic society reduces racism because people learn to accept people of different races. For example, an ~~black~~ immigrant in an area would reduce the prejudice to that group as a whole as they become used to them.

I also think that a multi ethnic society does not reduce racism because it is often rooted in people and must be educated out. For example older generations are often more racist than younger generations because that is how they were educated.

(c) The question is asking the reasons there are different attitudes to other religions by Christians.

The first reason is that some Christians

are in classist so believe that all religions share some truth but ~~there~~ are in fact all ~~able~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~part~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~Christians~~ <sup>go</sup> to heaven.

The second reason is that some Christians, like ~~E~~ are exclusivist so believe that only Christianity is right so are intent on converting people to join Christianity.

The third reason is that some Christians, like Liberal Protestants are pluralist so accept all religions are believe they are all right. This means that there is more likelihood of community cohesion because there is less tension in a multi-faith society.

(d) (i) The statement says that the government needs to do more to encourage community cohesion and I disagree.

The first reason is they passed ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Race and Relations ~~Act~~ <sup>Act</sup> which made it illegal to stir racial hatred.

The second reason is <sup>more</sup> mosques and other religious non-Christian buildings have been built.

The third reason is that, people are now more accepting of immigrants because more are entering the

Country.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me.

The first reason is there is still some prejudice against groups.

An Evangelical ~~will~~ <sup>may</sup> disagree with me because there is still sexism by them in ~~sexist~~ <sup>religion</sup> like females not becoming bishops.

The third reason is that men still earn more money than women, which is sexism.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

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

Reason one: "racism" developed by "used to them"

Reason two: "be educated out" developed by "were educated"

Two developed reasons = 4 marks.

(c) The candidate gives a description of attitudes with no reasons - written coherently; therefore they can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC.

Level one = 2 marks

(di) A personal opinion supported by three correct reasons = 3 marks

"race relations act"

"racial hatred"

"built"

(dii) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

"groups"

"bishops"

"sexism"

## Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates should:

- attempt the sub-questions in the top questions (odd numbers) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even numbered). Candidates who choose questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all their questions and as such are at a clear disadvantage.
- indicate which question they have answered by crossing in a square at the top of the paper and be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation.
- be advised by their teachers as to how much they should write and not write more than the space required on the answer paper.
- be encouraged to spend about twenty minutes per question leaving ten minutes to check through work at the end of the paper.
- be asked to write using a black pen, this is important so that clear images are reproduced.
- learn the Edexcel glossary definitions in appendix 4 of the specification. Candidates who had learnt the glossary wording performed to a high standard.
- in the d section, ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in (di) and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in (dii) rather than confusing the two halves. At least one of the reasons given in either (di) or (dii) must be explicitly Christian 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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