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Examiners' Report June 2010

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS05

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June 2010

Publications Code UG024588

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Religious Studies GCSE 2010
Paper 5RS05
Religion and Life based on a study of Judaism

The first examination of this unit was sat by a small number of candidates who all achieved good results. There were no weak candidates and there were several centres that entered individual candidates who performed well.

Candidates were able to respond well to the new style questions (b) and (d), giving their own developed reasons as well as taking into consideration alternative views in question (d). However it is important to note in the new question (b) that candidates must state what their opinions and reasons are for their point of view to gain marks. In the new question (d) candidates must give reasons to support their point of view and reasons why others may disagree with their opinion, including a reference to religion to gain the highest marks.

Generally candidates were aware of the new key words and could give their meaning accurately although section four key words seemed more difficult for some students.

In section one most students were able to explain the design argument and considered whether suffering proves God does not exist in order to gain at least two marks.

In section two most candidates could explain why Jewish people believe in life after death and why most Jewish people are against euthanasia in order to gain level two marks or more.

In section three the majority of candidates knew the key words and could give their opinions on whether family life is important and whether going to synagogue helps families stay together to gain two or more marks.

In section four there was some confusion between multi-ethnic and multi-faith answers and in general this section was not done as well as the first three sections. Candidates only gave limited response to the question on community cohesion.

Grade boundaries

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Raw boundary mark	80	64	55	46	38	31	24	18	12
Uniform boundary mark	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20

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