

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCSE Religious Studies (5RS05)
Paper 01 Religion and life based
on a study of Judaism

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GCSE Religious Studies 5RS05/01

Religion and life based on a study of Judaism

This unit was sat by a small number of candidates who achieved good results. Candidates were able to respond well to the new style (b) and (d) questions, giving their own developed reasons as well as taking into consideration alternative views in question (d). However it is important to note in question (b) that candidates must state what their opinions and reasons are for their point of view to gain marks. Candidates can gain full marks if they back up their points of view with relevant examples.

In the new question (d) candidates must give reasons to support their point of view and give reasons why others may disagree with their opinion, including a reference to Judaism in order to gain the highest marks.

Generally candidates were aware of the new key words and could give their meaning accurately although section two key words seemed more difficult for some candidates, particularly euthanasia.

In section one most candidates were able to explain their ideas sufficiently about science and whether the Almighty created the world in order to gain at least two marks. There were some good responses to the problem of evil and suffering and belief in the Almighty. Some candidates did not take note of the word 'today' in question 1(d) and in question 2(d) did not link into the idea of the 'beauty' of the world.

In section two most candidates could explain why non-religious people believe in life after death and why some Jewish people are against changing the abortion law whilst others may want changes to occur. Most candidates were able to gain at least level two about their opinions towards the law on euthanasia.

In section three the majority of candidates knew the key words and could give their opinions on whether sex outside marriage is acceptable and different Jewish attitudes to homosexuality. Strong candidates answered clearly on Jewish family life and different Jewish attitudes to contraception.

In section four some candidates confused discrimination and prejudice and there was some confusion about why community cohesion is important. In question 7(b) some candidates did not notice the words 'religious rights' and just wrote generally about women's rights.

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