

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Religious Studies (5RS05)
Paper 01 - Religion and Life Based on
the Study of Judaism

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Unit 5 - Religion and Life Based on a Study of Judaism

There were a very small number of candidates who sat this paper. In general, the candidates scored well. The candidates were able to respond well to questions b and d, giving their own developed reasons as well as taking into consideration alternative views in the d question and considering Judaism.

It is still important to note in question b the candidates must state what their opinions are and developed reasons for their point of view to gain full marks. In 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 and or Judaism to gain the highest marks. The overall knowledge in the c questions was most encouraging reflecting the good teaching and learning standards in this unit. Stronger candidates were aware of the key words and could give their meaning accurately, although some specific Judaism terms were occasionally muddled.

In section one the questions were evenly split in terms of popularity. In question 2b, some candidates were not clear about causation thus limiting their marks. In question 2c most candidates explained well how a Jewish upbringing may lead to belief in the Almighty.

In section two, the candidates were evenly split, however several candidates struggled with a clear definition of assisted suicide. Candidates in 3b gave clear reasons about whether euthanasia should be allowed in the UK. In 4b there were some clear reasons about non religious people and their beliefs about life after death.

In section three, candidates were evenly split. Most knew the key words. In 5c, the majority of candidates could give clear views on how attitudes toward homosexuality had changed in the UK and in 6c why some Jewish people accept divorce.

In section four, again the questions were evenly split. In 7b, there were some good answers about community cohesion. 8c was answered well regarding issues in a multi-faith society. In 8d, the candidates were well aware of issues regarding the equal rights in religion for both men and women.

