

Examiners' Report
June 2015

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS10 01

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June 2015

Publications Code UG042485

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Introduction

This year's examination attracted a large number of candidates, many of whom demonstrated a very commendable level of knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of Roman Catholicism. Particularly impressive for example, was the ability of candidates to explain the importance of the Catholic belief in salvation. Such concepts are not easy and this indicated a depth of theological understanding, as well as the breadth, which was tested by this paper.

For those centres that are Catholic schools it was clear that this specification is helping pupils to develop a very significant understanding of the nature of their faith tradition. Equally, many candidates coming from outside the Catholic tradition are achieving an understanding of the Roman Catholic faith that appears to be thorough and balanced. The ability of candidates to be able to argue for points of view other than their own showed a marked respect for other viewpoints, with only extremely rare examples of any lack of balance or sensitivity.

Among many very well answered questions there was a very good understanding shown of the importance of the Virgin Mary within Catholicism, and also a very full understanding of the work done within the UK by the St Vincent de Paul Society. As will be indicated below, the notion of the Church as the Body of Christ proved the greatest challenge to candidates.

Overall, there was an equal quality of responses across all four sections and there was quite an even balance when it came to the popularity of questions within each section.

Question 1 (a-d)

Question (Q) 1 was in four parts, asking about 'monotheism', the Trinity, God as Father, and the entitlement of sinners to heaven.

- (a) Monotheism refers to a belief in one God or that God is one. Most candidates fully understood this. Those who did not, knew that it was a belief in God or that it was about 'one-ness', but not both. These answers would have gained one mark.
- (b) The reasons why Christians might believe in the Trinity could have referred to the Trinity in general, or could have focussed on why it is important to believe in an aspect of the Trinity. Some answers for example, stressed that a belief in the Trinity allowed Christians to believe that Jesus is God incarnate.
- (c) The Fatherhood of God is exemplified in his act of creating human beings, in his care of human beings, or in the way in which he reflects other roles performed by fathers, in the experience of candidates. This might include a father as 'rule giver'. This was understood very well by candidates. The main error was of those who understood the question as asking why it is important to believe in God, with no reference to his Fatherhood.
- (d) Many candidates identified two different points of view correctly. It was possible to focus on the unrelenting love of God, on his forgiveness (as exemplified in the parable of the Prodigal Son), and on the salvation brought by Jesus. The alternative point of view focussed on the meaning of the need to repent, to acknowledge Jesus as saviour, and of the significance of the distinction between heaven and hell.

This is an example of a very good answer. However, the candidate does not score any marks for (d)(i) due to an error that it is important to stress.

Write your answer here:

- (a) Belief in only one God.
- (b) I think that all Christians should believe in the Trinity. One reason is because God has separate roles. Believing in the Trinity means that Christians have the option to ask for guidance from whatever form of God they need. Evidence for this is that God is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is one reason.

Another reason is because God is separate, but also one. God's three forms all have specific jobs or differences so it's important for Christians to acknowledge this. Evidence for this is the Son died for our sins, while the Spirit is for guidance. This is another reason.

(c) One reason is because he is the creator. God, more specifically the Father created all life, so it's important that Christians see him as the father. Evidence for this is in Genesis and the six days it took the Father to create the earth. This is one reason.

Another reason is because he gives guidance. Christians should pray to the Father as he can give spiritual guidance. Evidence for this is the prayer 'Our Father'. This is another reason.

Another reason is that he is a provider. Like a real father, he provides for his children on earth. Evidence for this are missionary charities working through God. This is another reason.

A final reason is because he grants salvation. The Father grants people salvation. So it's important for Christians to believe in God as the 'father'. Evidence for this is the Sacraments are all to forgive or abolish sin. This is a final reason.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement. One reason is because of the sin murder. The CCC states that anyone who commits murder will automatically be sentenced to hell. So, this means that God doesn't accept everyone into heaven. This is one reason.

Another reason is because of the sins such as lying. The CCC states that lying will send you to purgatory and not heaven or hell. So, God doesn't accept everyone. This is another reason.

(ii) One reason someone may disagree is because of the Sacraments. The Sacraments are there to ensure that everyone is granted salvation. The Sacrament of baptism ensures that original sin is forgiven. This is one reason.

Another reason is that God is omnibenevolent. A God who loves everyone wouldn't let anyone suffer so, technically he grants heaven to everyone even if they have sinned. Evidence for this is that God can forgive everyone for their sins. This is another reason.



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(a) 'Belief in only one God'

2 marks

(b) gains three, rather than four, marks. It is worth reading carefully.

- There are two reasons: that the Trinity shows God's separate roles and also that it is God's way of being one.
- However, the development is repeated, referring to the various roles performed by God. It is a principle of awarding marks for (b) that candidates cannot use the same kind of development twice.

3 marks

(c) Several points to credit

8 marks

(d)(i) No points to credit

Had the candidate offered three personal reasons the response could have gained marks. However, in fact it offers three **incorrect** Catholic teachings.

- It is important to note that the marks were not denied because the candidate failed to offer their own opinion. It is quite acceptable for a candidate to say 'I agree, because the Catholic Church teaches...'.
• However, the teaching must be correct. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) does not say that murderers will be sent to hell automatically, nor that liars will be sent to purgatory.

0 marks

(d)(ii) Two reasons, one developed

3 marks

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) 4 marks

Total = 20 marks



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In general, if candidates claim to be identifying a Catholic teaching, they can only gain credit if the teaching is identified correctly.

This is an example of a very good answer but one in which the candidate did not gain any marks for development in response to part (b).

Write your answer here:

(a) Belief in one God.

(b) I think that all Christians should believe in the trinity because, it is God's way of being three forms. This is in the Bible which is ~~the~~ important for all Christians, because it is God.

Also it says that we as Christians should believe in the trinity in the catechism. The catechism is important for Christians because it is the official teaching of the Catholic Church.

(c) It is important for Christians to believe in God as 'father' because it is part of the trinity and he is the father who created

the universe, for us to live on.

Also it is important because he gave up his ~~eye~~ ~~o~~ son Jesus, ~~+~~ so that we could receive salvation from sin. So this is a loving thing that a father would do for their child.

Therefore we should believe he is our father.

Another reason is that, in the prayer 'Our father' we refer to God as our father. This prayer is very important for Christians.

As well as this in the prayer it says that God will provide us with daily bread, this is something that a father would do in their role, to feed their child.

Finally, it's important because ~~without the reincarn~~ Jesus called him his father, and he told the disciples to call God their father.

We are God's disciples on earth and we should follow in Jesus' example too, to ensure that we live a good Christian life.

(d) (i) AS a Roman Catholic I disagree with the statement, because it says in the Catechism that you have to be free from sin to enter heaven.

Also if you have sinned and gone against the 10 commandments set by Jesus, then you will not receive heaven. E.g. 'do not steal.'

Finally, in the Bible it says that God will not allow people who have sins to go to heaven, you must go to reconciliation.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me and say that, God created us all equally and therefore we all have an equal right to go to heaven.

Also some people may say that God will forgive all sins committed because we are his children and he loves us, just like in the prodigal son when ~~Jesus~~^{the son's} forgives ~~his~~^{the} sons are forgiven.

Finally St. Paul said that Jesus resurrected and therefore we will all have an after life equally.



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Examiner Comments

This answer exemplifies very well the kind of correct answers that gained full marks for parts (c) and (d).

This comment focusses on the answer to part (b) and why the candidate only gained two marks for two brief (not developed) responses.

- The first (b) answer says the Trinity is important because it is God's way of being three forms. This is a correct reason and gains one mark. The fact that it is in the Bible is a different point and not a development.
- The second part of (b) refers to the fact that this belief is mentioned in the Catechism. This is also correct, even if it is an answer that does little to clarify the belief itself. What the candidate hoped would count as development in fact tells us why accepting the Catechism is important, not why belief in the Trinity is important, and therefore does not develop the answer.

(a) 2 marks

(b) 2 marks

(c) 8 marks

(d)(i) 3 marks

(d)(ii) 3 marks

SPaG 3 marks

Total = 21 marks



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Examiner Tip

It is very important for candidates to understand that for development to count it must develop their answer to the question in hand.

Here is another example of an answer to this question that would not have gained the development mark, and then one that would:

- The Trinity is important because it is mentioned in the Bible. It is important to believe in the Bible because it is the word of God.
- The Trinity is important because it is mentioned in the Bible. For example, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all present at Jesus' baptism.

Usually, saying something is taught in the Bible and then giving an example of such a teaching, would gain the development mark.

Question 2 (a-d)

Q2 was in four parts, asking about the Trinity, the importance of love of neighbour, salvation from sin and the belief that God created the world.

(a) The Trinity refers to the Christian belief that there are three persons in one God. Most candidates fully understood this. Those who did not often knew that it was a belief about God, and were able to achieve at least one mark.

(b) The reasons why it might be important for Christians to love their neighbours included:

- references to the teaching of Jesus, with specific references to the Golden Rule and a number of parables
- mention of the Ten Commandments. Although there is no specific teaching about love of neighbour in the Ten Commandments, this answer was accepted on the grounds that many of the commandments have that underlying theme
- few examples, if any, of candidates who argued against the proposition but such answers might have made reference to the priority of loving God, or of caring for one's family and friends

(c) This question about salvation from sin was less popular than Q1(c) on God as Father. Nevertheless, it was answered well overall, with candidates referring to the role of Jesus as saviour and to the sacraments. It was also generally understood that salvation from sin is necessary in Christian teaching, to gain eternal life in heaven.

(d) Many candidates identified two different points of view correctly.

Most of the answers in agreement referred to biblical accounts of creation as well as to the arguments from cause and design.

Those that disagreed usually suggested that science provided more credible explanations, especially the 'Big Bang'. Many candidates pointed out that atheists would not accept God as creator, and that some other faiths do not have creation beliefs similar to the Christian faith.

This is an example of a poorer set of answers, but one that illustrates how less able candidates may gain marks for simple reasons, and extra marks if they use development correctly.

Write your answer here:

(a) The Trinity is the belief that God is the father the son and the Holy spirit

(b) Yes I do think it is important to believe love their neighbors. I think this because Jesus said to love your neighbor and as Christians they must follow the teachings of Jesus.

(c) It is important for Christians to believe in Salvation from sin for many reasons. All Christians are taught that after death you will enter heaven where you will be united with God. This is only possible if you have reached salvation, meaning it is important for them to reach this.

Jesus also ~~then~~ reached salvation before death and as Christians we must follow ~~his~~ his ways.

(d) (i) I agree that ~~God~~ everyone should believe that God is the creator of the world. As a Roman Catholic I believe that God is the ~~the~~ creator of the world as he is all powerful and created the world in seven days.

(ii) Others may disagree. Some people believe it is not ~~the~~ important to believe ~~in~~ that God is the creator of the world as they do not believe that he made it at all. and believe

in the theory of the Big Bang.
~~the~~ Also Atheists believe that ~~if~~
God does not exist meaning that
he did not create the world.



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Examiner Comments

(a) Once again, the part (b) answer illustrates how the candidate could have gained an extra mark.

- The fact that Jesus taught love of neighbour is correct.
- However, the attempted development explains why following Jesus' teaching is important. A simple reference to an example, such as the parable of the Good Samaritan, would have gained the extra mark.

2 marks

(b) 1 mark

(c) The candidate repeats twice the teaching that salvation from sin is necessary to gain eternal life. Once that point has been made, it does not add anything to say that Jesus taught it. However, had they mentioned a specific teaching or action of Jesus (such as about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal Son, or the words spoken to the 'good thief') extra marks could have been gained for development.

2 marks

(d)(i) The mark is gained for reference to God being the only one powerful enough to create the world (whether in seven days or not). Reference to cause or design would have gained extra marks.

1 mark

(d)(ii) The 2 marks are gained for reference to the 'Big Bang' and to the point of view taken by atheists. If it had been added that scientific explanations are more plausible, then the 'Big Bang' example would have been development and the total mark would have been 3.

2 marks

SPaG 2 marks

Total = 10 marks

This is an example of a fully correct answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) The belief that God is three-in-one.
(The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit).

Yes I do because,

(b) Jesus' second commandment was to love your neighbour. In order to achieve salvation Jesus' guidance is the best to follow.

In addition, ~~As~~ in the parable of the Sheep and Goats Jesus explained that when we help love others, we are also showing love to God. Therefore, by loving others, we are also loving God and doing his will.

(c) Sin restricts us from entering heaven. If we want to achieve salvation and enter heaven to achieve eternal life with God, then we must be free from sin.

Next, if we do not receive salvation we will go to hell or purgatory upon death. To avoid this we must try to achieve salvation.

Thirdly, salvation is important because God allowed Jesus (his only Son) to sacrifice himself so that the sins of the world could be forgiven. This shows its importance.

Finally, it is important because of the emphasis and purpose the sacraments have towards salvation.

Each sacrament enables us to become closer to salvation from sin, and closer to reaching heaven.

(d) (i) I agree because this shows that life is not an accident. It means that we all have a purpose for our lives.

Next, it means that ~~we~~ all life is sacred and because it was created by God, therefore people will respect life more.

Finally, the Church teaches that God is the creator because through the Creeds and the Catechism. As a Catholic there is no greater authority for me.

(ii) Others may argue that the Big Bang ~~was~~ created the Universe, so there is no creator so God doesn't exist.

Also, if people aren't religious we should respect their religious freedom and understand ^{and accept} that they do not believe in God.

Finally, some may argue that 'seeing is believing' and that without proof (because they ~~disse~~ do not believe the Bible) we cannot believe in God as the creator.



This is an answer that gains all of the marks available, providing two developed reasons in (b) and a series of simple reasons for questions (c) and (d).

(a) 2 marks

(b) The candidate offers two reasons why love of neighbour is important:

- Because it is Jesus' second commandment and because it is taught in the parable of the sheep and the goats.
- The first one is developed by saying that following this commandment is necessary for salvation.
- The second reason is developed with a full explanation of the significance of the parable, particularly about how loving one's neighbour means loving God.

4 marks

(c) Four simple reasons:

- The first is that salvation from sin allows people to enter heaven.
- The second is that those who are still in a state of sin may be sent to purgatory.
- Thirdly, salvation from sin explains Jesus' sacrifice.
- Finally, salvation from sin underlies the significance of the sacraments.

8 marks

(d)(i) It is argued that believing in God as creator gives life meaning and purpose, it means that life is sacred, and it is taught in the Catechism

3 marks

(d)(ii) Alternative points of view are acknowledged. Reference is made to the 'Big Bang Theory', to the point of view of non-believers and to the argument that there is no proof that God created the world.

3 marks

SPaG 4 marks

Total = 24 marks



All part (d) questions have the instruction that reference must be made to Roman Catholic Christianity. It is possible that this candidate used the third reason in (d)(i) in order to ensure that this requirement was met. In fact, both of the earlier reasons would have met the requirement. The Roman Catholic Church does not need to be mentioned explicitly - any teaching that reflects Catholic belief accurately is sufficient.

Question 3 (a)

This question was looking for more than a simple reference to the Pope, which would have gained only one of the two marks available, but rather for some reference to his role. Hence 'the office of the Pope' is the answer from the specification. However, such answers as 'the role of the Pope', 'the Pope fulfilling his duties', and similar answers, would have been accepted for 2 marks.

One mark was also available for examples of the Pope fulfilling his duties, such as 'the Pope writing letters to churches'.

Most candidates had learnt the definition from the specification.

Write your answer here:

(a) ~~The magisterium is the group of bishops~~
The papacy is the office of the Pope.



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This answer is worth two marks, as would any paraphrase of the answer, such as 'the Pope's office'.

2 marks

A smaller number of answers highlighted one or more of the roles performed by the Pope.

write your answer here:

(a) ~~Papacy is the office of the pope~~
Papacy cure the letters the pope write
to people giving them advise or inspiration



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Examiner Comments

This answer is worth only one mark, because it does not define the overall role of the Pope.

1 mark



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Examiner Tip

Usually examples that help to explain the meaning of the term will only gain one mark because they do not give the overall definition. Where examples are sufficient to gain both marks, the question will indicate this clearly, with a phrase such as "Give two examples of..."

Some candidates confused the word 'office' in the definition for the physical space. Whilst this kind of association can work in the term 'the Oval Office' to refer to the Presidency of the United States, it cannot work in this context.

write your answer here:

(a) The Papacy is Where the Pope congregates and lives.



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This response did not gain any marks because it does not give any indication of the role performed by the Pope.

Question 3 (b-d)

Q3 (b)(c)(d) asked about married priests, the Church as the Body of Christ, and the value of Bishops in the Catholic Church.

(b) This question elicited a range of responses regarding whether or not priests should be allowed to marry.

- On the positive side, candidates spoke about the various ways that married priests could be more effective in their ministry. Some also focussed on the rights of the priest to a family life.
- On the negative side, the stress was on the problems married priests might encounter when faced with a conflict of responsibility between church and family.

(c) This was probably the question that caused most difficulties for candidates. These were two-fold.

- As has been the case in the past, many candidates answered in respect of the church building and of going to church, rather than about the Church as an institution and a community.
- It also appeared to be the case that simply fewer candidates were fully aware of the dimensions of this belief and were unable to offer more than simple answers.

In fact, the Catholic community at church, especially when celebrating the Eucharist, does provide reasons why the Church is called the Body of Christ, but a more developed understanding comes from a study of St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Some candidates were aware of this and were able to achieve full marks.

(d) Most candidates were aware of the role that Bishops perform in the Catholic Church, but some found it difficult to focus on whether Bishops were essential.

- Although this was a question about the Catholic Church, candidates were able to point to the experience of some Nonconformist Churches that do not have bishops, and suggested that perhaps all Churches could be run effectively without them.
- Rather more candidates relied on the thought that Catholics could receive the support and guidance they needed from the local priest and from the Bible.

This is an example of an otherwise sound candidate who found it difficult to deal with Q3 (c), regarding the Church as the Body of Christ.

(b) NO, I don't think all priests should be allowed to get married because they need to be fully devoted to the church, therefore other family commitments may jeopardise this.

NO, I don't think all priests should be allowed to get married because they would never have enough time to fully commit themselves because being a priest requires being there for people all the time.

(c) The church is called the body of Christ because the birdseye layout of the church is in the shape of a cross, therefore it represents Jesus' body on the cross.

The church is called the body of Christ because all of the apostles go in there to worship God, therefore they're worshipping his body/presence.

The church is called the body of Christ because a priest represents Jesus in live form, therefore a church is where a priest tells stories of God and the priest is God's presence.

The church is called the body of Christ because it is Jesus' home, therefore it is the body of Christ, because Jesus' presence lives there. (Holy spirit)

(d) (i) "The roman catholic Church should have bishops"

I agree because a bishop is a person that takes care of all of the other priests within the dioceses, therefore without the bishop the priests have nobody else to turn to if they need advice, etc.

(ii) Some people may disagree and say if a priest should be guided by anyone it should be God, not a bishop



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(b) There are two reasons (concerning devotion and time) but with a shared development regarding how priests could be distracted by family commitments.

3 marks

(c) The candidate has confused the Church with the church as a building and going to church. Examiners can allow that the gathering of people in church, with Christ present among them, is a reason why the Church is called the Body of Christ. However, the candidate was only able to gain Level 1 for this type of response.

2 marks

(d)(i) The candidate has understood the role of the bishop in caring for the diocese and has developed that answer with specific reference to caring for priests. This is one developed reason.

2 marks

(d)(ii) For the opposing argument, the candidate offers the idea that no one, not even a bishop, should come between the priest and God. This is a simple reason and worth one mark.

1 mark

Total = 8 marks



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Centres might point out to candidates that whilst the specification does include a section about the church building, it is in the context of why a church has certain features.

Any question about the Church as the Body of Christ is asking about the Church as an institution and as a community.

This is a good example of a candidate who was able to achieve full marks, including Q3 (c)

(b) I think that all priests should be allowed to get married because it would allow them to better ~~to~~ relate to married couples who require advice. As a result, they could be more helpful to these people.

Furthermore, St Peter, the first pope, was married. Priests are supposed to be successors of the apostles, so they should be allowed to marry too.

(c) The Church is called the body of Christ because church members ~~are~~ continue Christ's work on Earth now that ~~that~~ Jesus is in heaven.

Also, the church is called the body of Christ because it shows that Christ's work is not over and did not finish with the ascension. It continues today through the Church.

Furthermore, it is ~~is~~ called the body of Christ because the different members of the church act separately but are still united ~~for example~~, just like different parts of a body. For example, the pope, priests and the laity all have different roles but they are still all part of the church.

(d) (i) I agree because the bishops are needed to look after the priests and parishes in their diocese.

Also, ~~the~~ bishops are necessary because they serve as a direct link between ~~each~~ each diocese and the Vatican and they pass on ~~informe~~ information from the pope and cardinals.

Furthermore, bishops are needed to perform the sacrament of confirmation, which is an important sacrament of initiation for Catholics.

(ii) Others may disagree with me because other Christian Churches, such as ~~the~~ quakers, manage perfectly fine without bishops so the Catholic Church could do the same.

As well as this, regular priests could carry out the same jobs and role as bishops, eliminating the need for them.

Furthermore, ~~protes~~^{some} protestant churches do not use a hierarchy of priests, bishops, cardinals etc. ~~Insted~~ Instead, it is run democratically. Catholic Churches could function like this and wouldn't have a need for bishops.



(b) The candidate offers two reasons.

- The first is that marriage would allow priests to understand married couples better, developed with the idea that they could then offer better advice.
- The second reason is that St Peter was married. Whilst priests themselves are not exactly successors of the apostles in the way bishops are, this would still be accepted, as their role relates to that of the apostles.

4 marks

(c) The candidate offers a series of developed reasons:

- Christ's work did not finish with the ascension but continues today through the Church, developed by adding that the members of the Church carry on Jesus' work on Earth.
- The different members of the Church have their own roles like different parts of a body, developed with the examples of the pope, priests and laity.

8 marks

(d) Three reasons are given on each side.

(d)(i) Bishops look after dioceses, serve as a link between the diocese and the Pope and perform the sacrament of Confirmation. Although priests can be delegated to perform this sacrament, the Bishop is still the usual minister, and this answer can be accepted.

3 marks

(d)(ii) On the other side of the argument: if Quakers can function well without bishops then so can the Catholic Church; priests can do most things that bishops can do; the Catholic Church could function more democratically, without a hierarchy.

3 marks

Total = 18 marks

Question 4 (a)

Q4 (a) asked 'What is the Magisterium?'

For both marks, candidates needed to reference the two aspects of the 'teaching office' and the 'Church'.

Once again, most fully correct answers gave the definition in the specification, referring to the Pope and Bishops' interpretation of the Bible and Tradition. Any answer that captured both aspects gained full marks.

Partially correct answers mentioned the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) or referred simply to the Pope and/or Bishops.

A fully correct answer.

write your answer here:

(a) Magisterium are the ^{bishops} ~~pr~~ Bishops and the Pope that interpret the Bible for responses on modern day topics such as abortion.



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It was not necessary for this answer to refer both to the Bible and Tradition to gain full marks because either would suffice.

At the same time, there was no need for the candidate to offer examples, although, of course, this is an entirely correct example.

2 marks

This is an example of an answer that comes close to an understanding but which actually contains neither of the two required elements.

Write your answer here:

(a) The magisterium are ~~the~~ ~~teaching~~ a group that advise the Pope.



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The two key words in this answer are 'group' and 'advise'. These words are too vague and do not capture the idea of the teaching role of the Church.

It could apply to any number of other groups, such as parts of the Curia. Therefore, it could not achieve any marks.

0 marks

This is an example of an answer that gains one mark.

Write your answer here:

(a) ~~The~~ A group of Cardinals and the pope who discuss matters of controversy. eg. Genetic engineering.



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Examiner Comments

This is not a fully correct response, because discussing matters of controversy does not capture the sense of providing teaching. However, it does capture the sense of the Pope and other bishops gathering to consider modern day issues, and that is worth one mark.

1 mark

Question 4 (b-d)

Q4 (b)(c)(d) asked about the importance of the Pope for Catholics, the importance of the Virgin Mary, and whether Catholics should obey the Bible.

(b) Most answers agreed that the Pope is important in the lives of Catholics using such supporting reasons as the apostolic succession, his role in the Magisterium and his general leadership of the Church. There were few negative responses but some answers mentioned that the Pope was divorced from the lives of ordinary Catholics, who had other sources of support and guidance.

(c) This was one of the best-answered questions on the paper. References were made to:

- Mary as the mother of Jesus
- Mary's purity
- Mary's care for Jesus right up to his death
- Mary as a role model

There was just one recurring misunderstanding - that Mary did not die but ascended to heaven like Jesus, which is not, of course, what the doctrine of the Assumption teaches.

(d) Most candidates were aware of the importance of the Bible for Catholics. This was both in respect of its nature as a sacred text, the Word of God, and also because of various aspects of its content, such as the Ten Commandments and the life and teaching of Jesus.

The negative point of view tended to focus on aspects of the Bible's possible unreliability such as its age, its possible cultural relativism, and some teachings that are unacceptable in the modern world.

This answer exemplifies a number of valuable matters:

- The fact that candidates can 'sit on the fence' in response to (b) questions
- The quality of the response to the question about the Virgin Mary
- Weaknesses in the answer to the question about the Bible

(b) I am not sure what I believe. Yes I do think the pope is important in the lives of Catholics because he is the only person who can interpret the bible for the people of today

No I do not think the pope is important in the lives of Catholics because we follow the teachings of God and Jesus and don't need the pope to tell us different things

(c) The virgin mary is important for roman catholics because she is a mediator so we can pray to her when in need

The virgin mary is important for roman catholics because she is the perfect role model for ~~st~~ Catholics to follow

The virgin mary is important for roman catholics because she is the immaculate conception which shows she was the only person who could give birth to Jesus with no sin

The virgin mary is important for roman catholics because she is the perfect role model ~~mother~~ parent and shows parents how to look after their children

(d) (i) I agree all catholics should obey the bible so they reach the ultimate christian goal of salvation

Evangelical protestants would agree and say the bible is the only means to faith

(iii) Some people may disagree with me and say the pope is the only person that can interpret the bible so it is him we should obey

Some people may disagree



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(b) It is perfectly legitimate for candidates to say they are not sure in respect of (b) questions, provided it is clear (as in this example) that both points of view are their own. It is also an example of an answer that provides only brief, undeveloped, reasons.

2 marks

(c) is very well answered. It mentions:

- Mary's role as mediator
- Mary as a role model
- Mary as sinless, due to the Immaculate Conception, which is developed by saying that this made her fit to be the mother of Jesus.

The role-model idea is repeated, but the candidate has already gained full marks.

8 marks

(d)(i) In the first part the candidate offers two reasons. The first, that obeying the Bible is the means to salvation, is acceptable. However, as this question asks whether Catholics should obey the Bible the reason given for why Evangelical Protestants do, is not.

1 mark

(d)(ii) The opposing reason, that Catholics should obey the Pope ahead of the Bible, is a point of view that can be credited.

1 mark

Total = 12 marks



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In respect of questions about the Virgin Mary, centres might want to stress the fact that Mary is not viewed as divine by the Catholic Church and therefore she should not be worshipped.

Also, it may be valuable to stress the distinction between the Ascension of Jesus and the Assumption of Mary after her death.

This is a good example of a fully correct answer. The comment below focusses on the quality of the answers to parts (b) and (d).

(b) The Pope is important in Christian lives as he sends ~~lett~~ letters to local parishes. This helps Christians deepen their understanding on the Church's stance of on certain topics and therefore is important.

Also, the Pope is important in the lives of Catholics as he is the successor of Saint Paul making up part of the magisterium. This is important as the magisterium influence Catholics decisions in everyday life.

(c) The Virgin Mary is important to Catholics as she did not question Gods plan. She followed his will eventhough she was afraid and didn't know what was going to happen. Therefore, Catholics look to her for strength and guidance.

Also, Mary was the mother of Jesus. As Jesus was the messiah, Mary is important to Catholics as she raised him. Therefore, by raising ~~Jesus~~ Jesus and preparing him, she is important.

In addition, Mary ~~was~~ is called the mother of God and has her own prayer. This is so ~~chr~~ Catholics can direct their prayers to her and, therefore, shows her importance.

Furthermore, Mary gave birth to Jesus whilst being a virgin. This shows her that God chose her as she had grace and was pure. Therefore, ~~chr~~ Catholics see the Virgin Mary as important as she had immaculate conception.

(d) (i) All Catholics should obey the Bible because it is the Holy book of Catholicism. As it is holy, it should be obeyed. Therefore, every Catholic should obey the Bible.

Also, Catholics should obey the Bible because they believe that it was written by many people through God's words. This shows ^{us that} ~~believe~~ Catholics should ^{obey} ~~believe~~ in the Bible.

Furthermore, Catholics should obey the Bible as that is what the magisterium uses and is in the catechism. By obeying the Bible, you will receive salvation and, ~~therefore~~ therefore, obeying the Bible is important.

(ii) However, the Bible contains not necessarily God's views, but views from the time. Therefore it should not always be obeyed.

Also, some Catholics believe that the Bible should be taken symbolically rather than literally. This is shown in the creation story where we should believe God created the earth, but he is above time so it is not believed literally.

Furthermore, we have the magisterium to explain the Bible and form meanings to issues not addressed (e.g. genetic testing). Therefore we should obey the magisterium but not necessarily the Bible.



(b) There are two developed reasons:

- The first reason offered is that the Pope sends letters to local parishes, developed by the idea that this deepens their understanding of issues.
- The second reason is that he is the successor of the apostles (examiners were asked not to penalise reference to St Paul rather than St Peter because the Pope is viewed as the successor of both) and this is linked to the membership of the Magisterium, which gives guidance on modern day problems.

4 marks

(c) 8 marks

(d)(i) Three reasons are offered on each side.

From the positive perspective the candidate says that the Bible is the:

- Christian Holy Book
- Word of God
- basis of Magisterial teaching.

3 marks

(d)(ii) On the negative side, the candidate accepts that there is an alternative point of view. They focus on three ideas:

- The Bible could be considered relevant just for its own time
- Some believe it is symbolic (metaphorical) not literal
- With the Magisterium, Catholics do not need to refer to the Bible

3 marks

Total = 18 marks



In both (b) and (d) questions examiners are instructed to assume that the candidate is expressing their point of view unless they indicate otherwise clearly.

In this example, at the start of (d) the candidate says 'All Catholics should obey the Bible...' It was not necessary for the candidate to start with 'I agree...' although centres may think it is wise to encourage candidates to do so.

Question 5 (a)

Q5 (a) asked about 'Holy Week'.

To gain both marks here, the candidates only really needed to be accurate in locating Holy Week, placing it as the week leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Such answers as 'the week before Easter', 'the week leading up to Jesus' death' and similar were accepted.

Full marks were also awarded to candidates who identified two of the key days within Holy Week, for example 'The week that contains Palm Sunday and Good Friday'.

One mark was available for answers that referred only to a week in Lent, or that identified just one of the key events.

As in previous examinations, examples that identified it with the week following Easter (what is usually referred to as Easter Week) received no marks.

An answer that did not gain any marks.

(a) This is where everything in that week
is Holy. ☺



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of the candidate simply re-arranging the words, allowing the examiner no evidence of even a partial understanding.

0 marks

Question 5 (b-d)

Q5 (b)(c)(d) asked whether Christmas has lost its meaning, the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation, and whether or not baptism is the best start to a baby's life.

(b) Most candidates agreed that Christmas had lost, or was losing, its real meaning, citing the preoccupation with presents, commercialism and the decline in religious observances. Those who disagreed pointed out that gift giving and family occasions can reflect the true meaning of Christmas and also suggested that many Christians still attend Midnight Mass, participate in Nativity plays, and sing carols.

(c) This was a well-answered question. Particular aspects highlighted included the opportunity to have sins forgiven, receive advice, re-establish a strong relationship with God, and make a fresh start. Many candidates also argued that reconciliation is necessary for salvation.

(d) Answers that agreed with the proposition that baptism is the best start to a baby's life mentioned the cleansing of original sin, membership of the Church, the opening up of the other sacraments, and the commitment of parents and godparents. On the opposite side, a great deal of emphasis was placed upon freedom of choice and the fact that Jesus was baptised as an adult.

This is an example of a fully correct answer.

(b) Yes I do think that Christmas has lost its real meaning, this is because I think that it is presented in the media as a time to eat and have fun; also it's gone too commercial rather than its true meaning of Jesus' birth.

Also I think that people and children in particular, just think of Christmas as a time to receive presents, and have a Christmas dinner. Rather than going to mass and celebrating the birth of Christ as a family, and that without the incarnation we wouldn't have life.

(c) The sacrament of reconciliation is important for Roman Catholics because, you can be forgiven by God of your sins and therefore

have a closer relationship with God, as a father and child would.

Also when your sins are forgiven and you are free from sin, it can help you to get closer to reaching salvation and having contact with God.

As well as this, by taking the sacrament of reconciliation you are being honest with God, and admitting your wrongdoing to him. Rather than living a life of sin or lying which is condemned in both the Catechism and the ten commandments.

Finally reconciliation is important for Catholics because, by taking this sacrament you are living a good Christian life. This is an important part of a Catholic life, to ensure that you are acting as God would want you to, while getting closer to meeting him in heaven.

(d) (i) As a Roman Catholic I agree that being baptised is the best start to a Baby's life, because baptism is the first sacrament of initiation and it allows you to receive all of the other sacraments.

Also it takes away the original sin that you are born with, which helps us to get closer to reaching salvation without sins. Finally at baptism the trinity is present as, the father is when the priest speaks, the son is the baby being baptised and the spirit is the dove that is present.

(ii) Present.
Some people may disagree with me and say that, baptism isn't the best way to start a baby's life because, the baby has not chosen to be baptised and therefore they are being forced into something without their agreement.

Also it is taking away the baby's freedom of religion and speech.

Finally there is no point in getting rid of original sins because you can sin again in daily life.



(b) The candidate offers two developed reasons.

- The media presents Christmas as time for fun and food, developed by the reference to Christmas having been commercialised.
- Secondly, children see it as a time for presents, developed by saying it is no longer a time for families to attend Mass together.

4 marks

(c) This answer contains more reasons than required for full marks, many of them developed. For example:

- It mentions that sins can be forgiven, developed by saying that this ensures a closer relationship with God. The sacrament brings people closer to salvation.
- It is an opportunity to be honest with God. The answer also mentions that it is part of a good Christian life and part of the pathway to heaven.

8 marks

(d) Again, the candidate offers a series of reasons, along with development on both sides.

- It mentions that baptism is the first sacrament of initiation, developed by reference to making it possible to receive other sacraments. It also takes away original sin, developed by noting that it brings people closer to salvation.
- On the other side of the argument, it is pointed out that baptism is not the baby's choice, that furthermore it denies religious freedom.
- Finally, it says that there is no point in taking away original sin because one can sin again later.

(d)(i) 3 marks

(d)(ii) 3 marks

Total = 18 marks



Some strong candidates know and understand so much that they want to record all they can. This is certainly admirable, although centres should continue to advise candidates to allocate their time evenly.

It is also useful to examine how a weaker candidate could have improved their performance.

(b) yes because people only see Christmas as a time to receive presents but we should be celebrating the birth of Jesus which was the day that changed billions of peoples lives.

(d) (i) yes, because when you have been ~~confirmed~~^{baptised}, you ~~are~~^{have} officially a Roman catholic. been given a blessing from God.

(iii) Some people may disagree because they may believe that you should let the baby make its own decision as it could change the babys whole life.



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(b) This is a developed reason. The candidate could have gained more marks if they had gone on to mention the neglect of religious observances, such as declining attendance at Christmas services, or the banning of civic Nativity plays.

2 marks

(c) 0 marks

(d) Two simple reasons are offered

- On the one hand, a baptised baby is blessed by God. If they had given an example of how that blessing is given - by mentioning almost any aspect of the ceremony - that would have counted as development.
- On the other hand, they write that the baby should be allowed to make their own decision on such an important matter. If they had gone on to say that this is best done when a person is older and able to make choices, that would have been development.

(d)(i) 1 mark

(d)(ii) 1 mark

Total = 4 marks

Question 6 (a)

Q6 (a) asked 'What is Transubstantiation?'

For two marks, candidates needed to talk about the bread and wine changing into the body and blood of Christ. Any word that captured the sense of 'change' was accepted.

Answers that defined the Real Presence, but not the change, gained just one mark.

A fully correct answer

write your answer here:

(a) Transubstantiation is the changing of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.



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Examiner Comments

This gains both marks because it captures the idea of 'change'.

2 marks

An example of how one mark was gained.

write your answer here:

(a) The belief that the bread and wine is God's body.



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Examiner Comments

The essential concept for both marks was that of 'change', from the term that comes from two Greek words meaning 'change of substance'.

This answer does not include this idea and is therefore worth only the single mark.

1 mark

Question 6 (b-d)

Q6 (b)(c)(d) asked about the value of attending Sunday Mass, about how Catholics observe Lent, and whether Confirmation is an essential step in the life of a Catholic.

(b) Almost all answers agreed that Sunday Mass was a source of help. The answers focussed on:

- the Penitential Rite, which allows sins to be forgiven
- the Liturgy of the Word, and the lessons that can be learnt
- receiving Communion and the spiritual support that it can bring

(c) Almost all candidates recognised that this was a 'how' question, looking for the ways in which Lent is observed, and they demonstrated a good understanding. Fasting and self-denial were mentioned most frequently but there was also focus on good works, attending the sacrament of reconciliation, reflecting on the suffering of Jesus and generally making spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter.

(d) Arguments agreeing that Confirmation is an essential step mentioned how it was a more mature choice than it had been at baptism, a personal commitment, and a step that made the person an adult member of the Church. Arguments on the other side stressed that a public commitment did not make a good Catholic, but rather, what was in the heart. Many also said that baptism should suffice or that salvation comes from living a good life.

A fully correct answer, with an example of a fully developed reason in (d)(ii).

(b) I think that going to Mass each Sunday helps Catholics as they are given the Sacrament of the Eucharist. This helps a Catholic because the sacrament gives the person strength for the week ahead.

Also, by going to Mass and saying the rite to confession, Catholics can understand that they are sinners. This helps Catholics because it persuades them to go to confession and be absolved from their sin.

(c) Roman Catholics observe Lent by giving up something. They do this because it reminds them of when Jesus was in the desert, and makes them want to be like him.

Catholics also try to pray more to God. They do this because they want to strengthen their relationship with God and become stronger in faith.

Catholics also try to do more almsgiving. They do this because they want to help the suffering like Jesus did and become the follow the Golden rule; 'treat others as you would like to be treated.'

Lastly, Catholics try to go to Confession before Easter. They do this because by being absolved, they can be more like Jesus and be closer to God. They can also look ^{forward} ~~forward~~ to the most important celebration 'Easter' ~~where~~ when Jesus ~~resurrected~~ ~~died~~ ~~for~~ ~~us~~ resurrected proving he is the Son of God.

(d) (i) As a Roman Catholic I believe that Confirmation is an essential step in the life of a Christian as ~~the~~ it is their own choice to take on the Baptismal vows and declare their faith.

Also, the person is given the fruits of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them through their lives.

Lastly, the person becomes a full member of the Catholic Church. This can therefore allow them to take on the final sacraments of marriage/ holy orders.

(ii)

Someone may disagree with me because baptism is an essential step in the life of a Christian because you are being ~~washed away~~ ^{cleansed} from your original sin, becoming pure.

Also, through baptism you are becoming a member of the Church, allowing God into your life.

Lastly, but baptism allows a Christian to take on ~~the~~ ^{the} further sacraments like the Eucharist and Confirmation.



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Examiner Comments

(b) Two developed reasons

- It is an opportunity to receive the Eucharist, developed by that giving strength for the week ahead
- The Penitential Rite makes one aware of one's sinfulness, developed by this helping an awareness of the need to go to confession and receive absolution.

4 marks

(c) There are at least four ways given here. Most of them are also developed, but four simple ways gained all the marks available for this question. The candidate mentions:

- giving up something for 40 days
- extra prayer
- almsgiving
- going to confession

8 marks

(d)(i) On the positive side, the candidate offers three simple reasons:

- It is one's own decision
- It is an opportunity to receive the Holy Spirit
- It makes one a full member of the Church

3 marks

(d)(ii) By contrast, the opposing argument is the rare example of a fully developed reason. It says that baptism is the essential step because it removes original sin. It develops this twice by saying that it is baptism that makes someone a member of the Church, and also it is through baptism that the other sacraments are made available.

3 marks

Total = 18 marks

This answer achieves just three marks and it may be useful to consider why that is.

Q6 (d) is not examined. The answer failed to gain marks simply because the candidate identified the wrong sacrament.

(b) I don't think that going to mass each Sunday helps Catholics because they just hear the same stuff all over again.

Secondly I don't think going to church every Sunday helps Christians because they don't learn anything new they just hear the same stories.

(c) Roman Catholics observe Lent by giving up something for 40 days because God did something for 40 days and 40 nights.

Some Roman Catholics say that Lent is just about giving something up like chocolate, crisps, alcohol for 40 days.

(d) (i) I don't think confirmation is an important step in life because all it is is going to tell the priest all the bad things you have done in the past.

Secondly confirmation is important because you still remember all the bad things that you have done in the past because they will never go away.

(iii) firstly some people may disagree with me and say confirmation is good because it takes all your sins away.

Secondly some people say that confirmation is an important step in life because by talking to the priest about all your bad things will make you forget about them.



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Examiner Comments

(b) The candidate repeats the same brief reason twice, that one just hears the 'same stuff' at Mass. If they had given an example, such as by saying that most of the texts do not change week-on-week, they would have gained the development mark.

1 mark

(c) The candidate identifies correctly that Catholics give up something for Lent, which is repeated on the following page.

However, saying this is because God 'did something for 40 days' is not sufficient to gain the development mark. If they had said that this was to imitate Jesus, who fasted in the desert for 40 days, they would have gained the extra marks.

2 marks

(d)(i) 0 marks

(d)(ii) 0 marks

Total = 3 marks

Question 7 (a)

Q7 (a) asked 'What is holy orders?'

This key term refers specifically to the priesthood and candidates could answer by referring to the **status** of priesthood, or the **sacrament** that confers the status. Candidates could refer either to a deacon, a priest or a bishop - they did not need to refer to all three.

Some candidates mistook 'holy orders' as referring to the religious life (Religious Orders).

A fully correct answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) becoming a priest, bishop or deacon



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Examiner Comments

This answer focusses on the process by which someone becomes a priest (or deacon, or bishop).

2 marks

This is also a fully correct answer, but with an alternative approach.

write your answer here:

(a) Holy orders is the status of being a priest, bishop or deacon.



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Examiner Comments

This answer focusses on the status, as opposed to the process, and is equally acceptable.

2 marks

A partially correct answer

write your answer here:

(a) Sacraments.



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Examiner Comments

This response identifies holy orders correctly as a sacrament, but does not indicate the subject of the sacrament. It is worth one mark.

1 mark



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Examiner Tip

All part (a) questions will allow for partially correct answers, usually when just one part of the definition has been given.

It is important to remind candidates that a one-word answer is rarely going to be able to define a term fully.

Question 7 (b-d)

Q7 (b)(c)(d) asked whether more men should become priests, why some Roman Catholics work to relieve suffering and whether the Ten Commandments are still important.

(b) was answered well by many candidates.

- Some answers tended to focus on the rights of women to become priests when the question was asking about the need for an increase in the number of male priests. Nevertheless, sometimes that discussion was appropriate to the question. Frequently, marks were gained by answers that referred to the shortage of priests and to the spiritual benefits gained through ordination.
- On the opposing side, the most popular approach was one that said only those called to the priesthood should respond and that many other caring vocations are just as worthwhile.

(c) The important aspect of this question was that it asked 'why' rather than 'how'. Almost all candidates understood that, and there were many good answers, most of them based on various aspects of Jesus' teaching. More 'secular' answers were also accepted, for example, that many Catholics have a commitment to social justice.

(d) Once again, candidates answered this question well, overall.

- On the positive side they focussed on such reasons as the relationship between the Ten Commandments and the law, the fact that they came directly from God and that they provide a guide for living morally.
- On the negative side, some suggested that they are outdated, or that they were superseded by the Sermon on the Mount, and some candidates suggested that such commandments as 'do not covet' set too high a demand.

This is an example of an answer that begins very well but this quality is not maintained throughout. There is a note on that theme in the examiner's tip.

(b) Yes because they can get closer to God and help the people around them to understand faith. It is a proof of full love to God when becoming a Priest.

The men are rewarded with salvation and the power to perform sacraments. That helps people fulfilling the Christian life that Jesus wanted people to do.

(c) They do it because it is one of the ten commandment. ~~to~~ Love your neighbor, it is saying to help anyone that is in need. This means that the person is respecting God and he will show respect back.

Jesus used the parabol of the goat and sheep, this means that the person helping will go to heaven and have an eternal life. As it was said from Jesus it must be followed.

It is also for their own ~~self~~ good to be proud of what they have done.

The people become friends with others which is what Jesus wanted to everyone to be a family.

Jesus said not to ~~save~~ save on Earth but to save in heaven. So ~~that~~ the money they don't need is given to help people and the person is following what Jesus said.

(d) (i) I agree because ~~many laws~~ it is what Jesus said so it must be important.

It is used as a basis for living the perfect Christian life.

It is a sin if the ten commandments aren't followed making it important as that Christian loses respect of God so he will ~~not~~ achieve salvation.

(ii) Some people might disagree with me because it doesn't work on today's world.

It isn't fully understood by everyone meaning it can't be used.



(b) Two developed reasons

- Priests can help people to understand their faith, developed by this being a proof of full love of God
- Priests have power to perform the sacraments, developed by this helping people to fulfill the Christian life

4 marks

(c) Four reasons, some of them developed

- It follows the teaching of the commandments (even if it is not a specific commandment, the love of others is a theme of the commandments)
- It follows the parable of the sheep and goats, developed by reference to gaining eternal life
- It makes all people one family
- It responds to Jesus' teaching about not storing up treasure on Earth

8 marks

(d)(i) On the positive side, there are three simple reasons

- Jesus taught their importance
- They are the basis of Christian life
- It is sinful to disobey them

3 marks

(d)(ii) However, on the negative side the candidate only offered the argument that they may be considered not relevant in the modern world.

1 mark

Total = 16 marks



For many, Section D is the last question candidates try, and sometimes there is evidence that they are short of time.

The evidence of this answer suggests a very good understanding of the issues, and it is possible that the final two marks were lost because the time limit had been reached.

Each section carries the same marks for the content of the answers, and time should be divided up evenly.

Only rarely do candidates adopt the negative perspective in respect of (b) questions. Here is an example of someone who did so successfully.

(b) I don't think "more" men should become priests, as if it is not their vocation they shouldn't have to join the priesthood. They may prefer to ~~the~~ join caring professions such as being a doctor instead to fulfill their vocation, which is still what God wants.

Also, like in the parable of the Rich Young Man, it is their choice whether to accept the call to priesthood. If, like the man in the parable, they decline, it is their decision and should be respected.

(c) Some Roman Catholics may join organisations to relieve the suffering of others, such as the ~~the~~ Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) or Saint Vincent de Paul society (SVP), as Jesus helped those ~~it was taught in~~ the suffering so Catholics should follow his example. They may also join CAFOD or SVP as the Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches that we should love our neighbour, and by aiding and helping the suffering they are loving their neighbour as Jesus wanted them to.

Also Jesus taught in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats to "clothe the naked", "feed the hungry", "visit those in prison" (i.e. those who are housebound) and more, so those who join CAFOD or SVP will be following these teachings and helping Jesus through the suffering as he said "wherever you do this for the least of my people you do it ~~to~~ for me", and Catholics want to help Jesus so would join these groups, to help the suffering.

Additionally Catholics may also join groups to relieve suffering as Jesus taught that the Greatest Commandment was to "love thy God and love thy neighbour". To love thy neighbour, Catholics would join groups such as CAFOD or SVP and please Jesus by following his teachings.

(d) (i) The Roman Catholic Church would agree that the Ten Commandments are still important for Christians today because they are still relevant guidelines given by God on how to live a Christian life.

Most of the Ten Commandments are also in line with UK laws, such as "thou shalt not kill" concerns the law on murder, and both agree it is wrong. By following the commandments, Christians obey the law which is important.

Also the Ten Commandments are still important for Christians today because we cannot just expel and ignore God's laws and teachings that we'd rather not follow and keep others, as modern interpretation is for the Magisterium to decide, and all teachings are equally important.

(ii)

However some may disagree and argue that the commandments of Exodus 20 are outdated, such as the commandment not to "covet thy neighbour's possessions", which many people can't help doing and don't see as a sin.

Also, the Magisterium have been able to interpret modern laws from the Bible, so we don't necessarily just need the commandments to tell us how to live.

Jesus' sermon on the Mount, his description of Christian living, details and modernises the commandments for Christians so the original commandments ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~not~~.



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This (b) answer offers two developed reasons why more men should not become priests:

- Men should not become priests if that is not their vocation, developed by reference to the other caring professions they could join instead.
- In the second example, the reason comes after the development, and examiners can give both marks for such answers. People have free choice and can decline the calling they are given. This is developed with the example of the rich young man in the Gospels who did not answer Jesus' call.

(b) 4 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should not be discouraged from arguing against beliefs and practices in the (b) questions. What is important is that they offer reasons, not just opinions, and that they add development if they want to achieve full marks.

Question 8 (a)

Q8 (a) asked 'what is the monastic life?'

A fully correct answer needed to identify that the term referred specifically to the life lived by monks and nuns, and not to the consecrated life in general.

It was possible to gain one mark by referring to an example of the monastic life, for example 'Benedictines'.

A fully correct answer

Write your answer here:

(a) Living the life totally devoted to God as
a monk and live the life of celibacy.



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Examiner Comments

Living a life totally devoted to God, and the reference to celibacy, would not have gained the marks because the candidate could have referred to many other forms of life, including priesthood.

However, the response does say 'living the life of a monk' and therefore gained full marks.

2 marks



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Examiner Tip

It is important for candidates to be aware that the monastic life is a very specific form of consecrated life. It is not synonymous with the life of religious Brothers and Sisters.

This is an example of an answer that does not distinguish monastic life from many other types of Christian commitment and therefore did not score any marks.

Write your answer here:

(a) The monastic life is a life whereby someone lives
a life full of faith.



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Examiner Comments

This refers to people who live faithful lives. This could refer to the life of any fully committed Christian and so does not define the key term precisely enough to gain marks.

0 marks

Question 8 (b-d)

Q8 (b)(c)(d) asked whether the Sermon on the Mount is important for Christians today, how a Roman Catholic organisation helps to relieve poverty in the UK, and whether it is possible to be rich and a good Christian.

(b) Some candidates could not distinguish between the Sermon on the Mount and the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, but that was rare. However, this was a question in which some candidates found it difficult to offer developed reasons.

Almost every candidate agreed on the importance of the Sermon and mentioned its authority as taught by Jesus, how it updated the Old Testament law, and how it is used as a guide to Christian living.

Development marks were most frequently gained by candidates who gave examples of teaching from the Sermon to illustrate their answers.

(c) This question asked 'how' an organisation helps to relieve poverty in the UK. Some candidates did not focus on the word 'poverty' and gave a range of examples of work sometimes including visiting the sick and prisoners, which could not be credited unless they went on to link this work to the question.

Many candidates provided a full range of relevant examples, including:

- food and furniture banks
- clothes stores
- affordable housing associations
- holidays for underprivileged children

(d) This question seemed to divide opinion.

There was a significant number of candidates whose personal view was that people could be rich Christians. Arguments included their ability to give to charity, to be devout regardless of their wealth, and the correction to the teaching that it is the 'love' of money that is the root of evil, not money itself.

In agreement with the proposition there were many references to Jesus' teaching about money in the Sermon on the Mount, and of the need for Christians to be generous.

This is an answer that gained only a few marks, with some ideas about how the candidate could have developed their answers.

(b) Yes, because it is when Jesus reinterprets the 10 commandments, therefore to be a good Catholic ^{you} should follow them.

Secondly it is important because it is when we are taught the golden rule which is treat others as you would want to be treated, and without this there would be no equality.

● "you cannot be rich and a good Christian"

(d) (i) I disagree because you can ^{use} ~~give~~ your money to give to charity, ^{therefore} ~~and~~ helping others.

Secondly I disagree because

(ii) Some people would agree with this statement because some people can become selfish when they have a lot of money

Secondly they would agree because



(b) The candidate offers two reasons, but the first one is not developed.

- They wrote that the Sermon on the Mount *is where Jesus reinterprets the Ten Commandments*. However, it does not constitute development to say therefore Catholics should follow them. An example of the reinterpretation would have gained the extra mark.
- The second example is developed - it is where we are taught the Golden Rule, without which there would be no equality. Development marks can be obtained by explaining further the implications of the reason given.

3 marks

(c) There was no answer to this question.

0 marks

(d) One simple reason was offered on each side:

- Rich people can give to charity. Adding 'helping others' is only to repeat what charity is, but an example could have brought a development mark.
- On the other hand, people with a lot of money can become selfish. If the candidate had added a reference to the teaching about 'love of money' they would have gained the development mark.

(d)(i) 1 mark

(d)(ii) 1 mark

Total = 5 marks

This is an example of a set of answers that gained full marks.

(b) I do think that the Sermon on the Mount is important for Christians today as it is precise teachings from Jesus that need to be followed in order to live a good Christian life and have eternal life with God, which all Christians want.

Secondly, it gives clear teachings on how to worship and this is important for Christians today as it teaches not to display religion so Christians know how to worship God correctly from the Sermon on the Mount, and every Christian wants to worship God correctly, in order to please him.

(c) The St Paul de Vincent ^{society} ~~society~~ organisation helps relieve poverty in the UK by setting up furniture stores for old furniture where people in poverty can come and collect some furniture to try and build a new life for themselves.

Secondly, they have centres for the lonely and for lepers so they can help them and insure they are not living in poverty.

Thirdly, they have advice clinics where they give advice to people in need and those living in poverty and inform them on the best ways to escape their bad situation.

Lastly, they have financial support centres where they give financial help to those living in poverty and ^{who} wish to turn their lives around.

(d) (i) As a Catholic, I disagree with the statement because riches can be used to love God and love your neighbour.

Secondly, you can use your money to help relieve poverty by giving to charity.

Lastly, you can still have money and live a good Christian life by following your vocation, using your talents and attending Mass every Sunday.

(ii) However, someone may disagree with me because riches do not last forever and after death they will be of no use.

Secondly, money can get in the way of your love for God and distract you from God.

Lastly, if the riches are not shared between everyone you are not living as God wants.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) Two developed reasons

- It is the teaching of Jesus on how to live a good life, developed by reference to getting to heaven
- It gives clear teaching on how we should worship, developed with examples from the sermon itself

4 marks

(c) At times, this answer appeared to stray from reference to work to relieve poverty but the candidate always linked their answers back to the question:

- They visit the lonely, but partly to ensure they are not living in poverty
- They offer advice, but specifically to help those who are in poverty escape their bad situation

8 marks

(d)(i) In favour of people being able to be rich and good Christians there are two reasons, with examples offered in development:

- Riches can be used to show love of others - such as by giving to charity
- Those with money can live Christian lives - by following their vocation and attending Mass

3 marks

(d)(ii) On the other side of the argument, there are three simple reasons:

- The reference to Jesus' teaching that there are no earthly riches in heaven
- Riches can distract from the love of God
- God wants wealth to be shared

3 marks

Total = 18 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

It was not necessary in Q8 (c) (nor in Q7 (c)) for the organisation to be identified. Indeed, where there was an incorrect identification (such as CAFOD working to relieve poverty in the UK) this mistake was ignored.

What is essential is that candidates are aware of the different kinds of work that are done by, for example, CAFOD and the SVP, and to identify that work correctly in respect of the question.

Paper Summary

The overall impression gained is that candidates were very well prepared for this examination and provided many good answers. Indeed, some answers showed great depth and subtlety of understanding. However, there will always be ways in which candidate performance can be improved.

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

- Candidates need to be made aware of the importance of developing reasons for (b) questions, to gain full marks. In (c) and (d) questions all marks can be gained by offering a series of simple reasons
- The reasons why the Church is called the Body of Christ were the least well understood part of this examination, and centres could focus on ensuring that pupils have a thorough understanding of this aspect of Catholic teaching
- Questions that ask whether something is important for Christians or Roman Catholics (such as 'Roman Catholics should obey the Bible') cannot be countered with reference to the point of view of atheists
- Candidates should be encouraged to look out for both 'how' and 'why' in part (c) questions. This year, they were asked, for example, why some Roman Catholics work to relieve the suffering of others (Q7)(c) and how a Roman Catholic organisation helps to relieve poverty (Q8)(a). The first looks for reasons, the second for ways
- Candidates should be aware that Catholic organisations working overseas do quite different work, on the whole, from those working to relieve poverty in the UK
- Candidates should be discouraged from taking the view that Roman Catholics believe that the Pope is God-like or that the Virgin Mary is worshipped
- Once again this year, too many candidates lost marks because they answered a mixture of parts of questions. The fact that they will lose marks for this mistake needs to be stressed

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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