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Examiners' Report June 2010

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS12

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Judaism

The first examination of this unit was sat by an encouraging number of candidates who mainly achieved good results. There were some strong candidates who performed well showing high standards of knowledge, understanding and personal opinions; weaker candidates struggled with some of the key words, ideas and issues. There were several centres which entered individual candidates who performed well.

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 (d) questions. However it is important to note in the new part (b) questions that candidates must state their opinions and reasons for their point of view in order to gain marks. In the new (d) questions candidates must give reasons to support their point of view and reasons why others may disagree with their opinion, including a reference to Judaism to gain the highest marks.

Generally stronger candidates were aware of the new key words and could give their meaning accurately although some specific Judaism terms were muddled and seemed more difficult for weaker candidates.

In section one most candidates were able to explain the importance of Abrahams covenant and to give opinions about the Ten Commandments.

In section two most candidates could explain why the Bet Din is important and why the Rabbi is important.

In section three the majority of candidates knew the key words but there was some confusion among weaker candidates about the different Jewish festivals, their meaning and importance.

In section four there was some confusion about the Noachide laws and some candidates did not know the meaning of the new key word 'parev'. Some weaker candidates struggled in answering the question 8(d) about the relief of poverty in the UK.

Grade boundaries:

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Raw boundary mark	80	65	55	45	36	30	24	19	14
Uniform boundary mark	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20

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