



Examiners' Report

June 2010

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS16



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Introduction

This year's paper was the first of the new specification. Whilst much of the content remains unchanged from the previous specification, the emphasis has changed quite considerably. The emphasis is now much more on how Mark's Gospel might be used by Christians today, so you will have found many questions asking how Christians today use the information in the Gospel.

The other major change that will be seen is that there is less testing on pure knowledge and more emphasis on evaluative skills. So the part (b) questions no longer ask for an outline of a particular incident in the Gospel, but asks the candidate to give their opinion on an issue arising from the study of the Gospel.

Comments on individual questions with examples will follow. Most questions will be dealt with, however, there will not be comment for most of the part (a) questions. It was apparent that the answers to these were generally well known and in very many cases were answered with the glossary definition for that particular term, although paraphrased answers were acceptable providing they gave the correct answer.

Question 1(b) (c) (d)

Part (b) of this question was quite well answered on the whole although as with responses to other part (b) questions candidates tended to give simple reasons without developing them.

For part (c) many candidates just described the event when Peter denied knowing Jesus. Others were unable to go beyond saying that it gave Christians today hope.

In part (d) quite a lot of candidates interpreted the word 'cost' purely in monetary terms and were therefore unable to do the question justice.

(c) The story of peters denial
might help christians today as
it shows that even though
peter betrayed Jesus, Jesus

still forgave him afterwards. This helps Christians as it shows Jesus will always forgive them for doing wrong.

Peter's denial might also help Christians today as it shows them it is OK to be afraid and make mistakes. Peter was afraid for his life and made mistakes but he was forgiven for that.

Peter's denial also might help Christians today as it shows them they should always stick up for what they believe in. This is shown in the story as it is what Jesus wants Peter to do. Even though he doesn't, Christians should learn from Peter's mistakes.

Peter's denial also might help Christians as it shows that even when Peter betrays Jesus, Jesus forgives him. This shows we should always forgive others just like Jesus even if the person hurts us.



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Examiner Comments

The answer to question 1(c) shown here is quite well answered. It provides three good explanations why the story of Peter's denial might help Christians today - Jesus will forgive those who do wrong; it's OK to make mistakes; it shows them they should always stick up for what they believe in. It could have been improved either by developing one of these points or by the addition of another point such as Peter went on to be one of the leaders of the early Church.



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Examiner Tip

It's very easy to get muddled up between the denial of Jesus and the betrayal of Jesus. Remember that Peter denied knowing Jesus and Judas betrayed Jesus to the authorities.

Question 2(b) (c) (d)

In question 2(b) candidates were generally able to find reasons for either supporting or opposing this question. However, there was lack of development in the answers seen, resulting in most responses only being awarded 2 out of 4 marks

Responses to part (c) showed many candidates found this question difficult. Many muddled the incident in the question with the 'sending out of the 12', and those that did identify the correct passage often did not get beyond the idea of 'leaving everything to follow Jesus' and would sometimes repeat that idea in several ways without adding anything to what they had already said.

For part (d), although this question was quite well answered, many candidates found it difficult to get beyond the idea that life is very different now (technology etc) and so the disciples would not be able to teach us much now.

(b) I do not think it is easy to be a disciple of Jesus today as we live in a materialistic world and it can be hard to give everything up to follow him become a disciple.

I also do not think it is easy as disciples of Jesus are still prosecuted and even killed in some countries.

~~It is also hard~~

I also do not think it is as easy as ~~when~~ many of the things Jesus did have been proven to be impossible, how can we know if any of Jesus teachings are true.



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Examiner Comments

This is an example of a part (b) answer which has used three simple reasons. The question (as with all part (b) questions) asks the candidate to give two reasons. Therefore no credit can be given for the third reason.

The candidate could have improved the mark (2 marks) awarded for this question by developing the two reasons given. For instance by giving examples in both cases.

Question 3(b) (c) (d)

For 3(b), most candidates who answered this question were able to identify the incident referred to in the question, although some did confuse it with the cleansing of the Temple. Many candidates were able to link the incident to Messianic features.

In part (c) the majority of candidates tackling this question knew the incident referred to, but they were often unable to relate the event to how Christians might use this passage today when dealing with issues such as obedience to God versus obedience to the state. These candidates tended to just retell the story.

Question 3(d) was generally quite well answered, although some candidates saw Sabbath as merely a Jewish observance and therefore did not see its Christian significance.

(d) (i) I disagree with this as in "Picking Corn on Sabbath" and "Arguments about the Sabbath", Jesus emphasised the importance of the Sabbath and that we should believe in the Sabbath and follow it. If Jesus finds it important, we should too. Secondly, nowadays people have busy lives and don't get much time to be with God and talk to him. The Sabbath day is the only day we get to actually spend time with God and talk to him, so it should be relevant to us. Thirdly, God created the world in 6 days and rested on the seventh (Sabbath day), this echoes our life as we work for 6 days to 5 days, so we should rest on the Sabbath day. God rested on that day so we should too.

(ii) Some people may agree with this by saying firstly, we have a lot of time to rest and be with God nowadays so why do we need to spend a whole day resting to be with God. It makes the Sabbath day irrelevant. Secondly,



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Examiner Comments

In this example response to (d)(i) there are three valid reasons given for disagreeing with the statement. It is possibly arguable whether Jesus 'emphasised the importance' of the Sabbath. However, Jesus certainly did not dispute the practice of Sabbath observance as such, but simply the way it was practiced by some, So the point, is valid.

In (d)(ii) there is an incomplete answer giving only one valid reason. The candidate could have improved the mark awarded by giving two more reasons, such as saying that Jesus broke the Sabbath rules of his day and also saying that life is very different today so that the Sabbath rules of Jesus' day are no longer relevant in 21st century society.

Question 4(b) (c) (d)

For question 4(b) most candidates were aware of what is meant by the 'cleansing of the Temple'. The majority of candidates argued that Jesus was right to do as he did because what was being allowed to happen in the Temple was not right in a place of worship. Some candidates did try to argue that it was not Jesus' place to put these things right but there were not many candidates arguing from this point of view.

In 4(c) there were some very good answers to this question (see the example). Many candidates identified that it was at the house of a leper and that the actions were carried out by a woman - both considered lower class people in Jesus' day and were able to draw valid conclusions from that. Many candidates also identified the Messianic connotations and the links to Jesus death and burial.

In response to question 4(d) many candidates were able to produce some reasons on both sides of this argument but few were able to produce three reasons or developed reasons on both sides. Some candidates did not seem to understand the word 'inevitable' in the question.

(c) The anointing of Jesus at Bethany is important for ~~for~~ Christians today for the following reasons. Firstly, it shows that Jesus was ready to be anointed, ready for his burial by a woman and

a sinner. This reveals to Christians today what sort of a person Jesus was. He was humble and he accepted anyone, and welcomed the lowest members of society, since women weren't highly regarded in those days. Also, he is anointed in a leper's house, ~~not~~ in the temple and not by a high priest. Secondly, it shows that Jesus wasn't going to back down from his fate of having to die on a cross, be buried and rise again. This is shown by the fact that he doesn't oppose to being anointed, ~~than~~ an act that foreshadows his death and burial, therefore accepting his destiny and mission.

Thirdly, it shows what attitudes Christians today should have towards the poor and opportunities in life. Jesus said, "you have the poor with you always, but you won't always have me." This shows Christians today to jump at opportunities and to not give them up by thinking you can do something else instead, which is something that you always have. This is both in a Christian's life as well as their ordinary life. Finally, Jesus' anointing at Bethany promotes and encourages social cohesion. Jesus, a rabbi, a teacher and God's Son, is being anointed by a woman while he is in a leper's house. This brings the two ends of society together, and encourages Christians today to do the same. This could be achieved through preaching, to the outcast, raising money for a charity or simply going to visit some sick people.



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Examiner Comments

This response to question 4(c) gives a very full and comprehensive answer showing all the main features of the story and showing why they would be important for Christians today. It deals with the incident being a preparation for his burial; the treatment of the lowest members of society (developed at the end by talking about social cohesion) and his willingness to face his fate. It didn't comment on the Messianic overtones of the incident, but there was sufficient here to gain level 4 and as it was coherent it gained the upper of the two marks for level 4.



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Examiner Tip

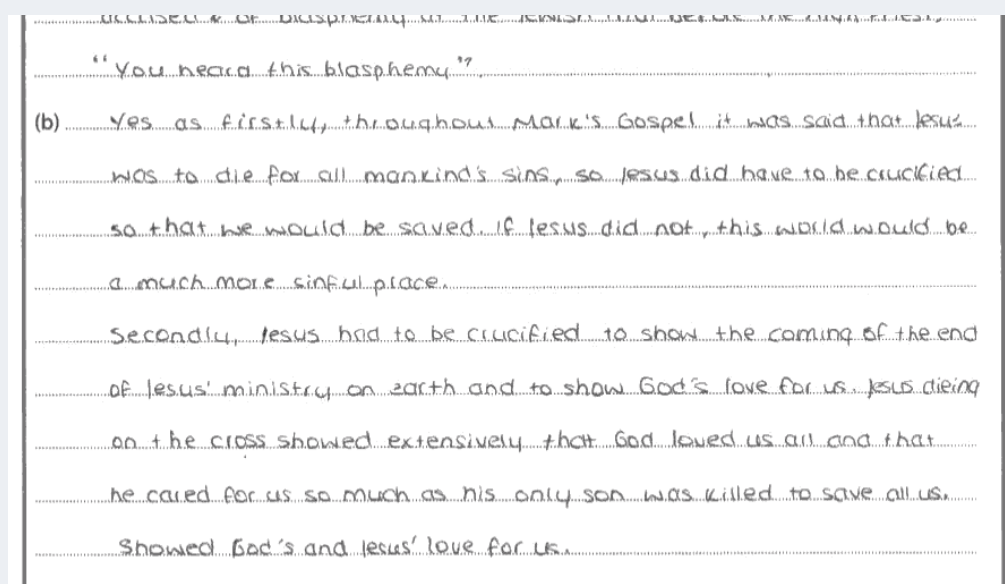
When learning the stories in the Gospel, don't just learn the facts of the story, but continually ask yourself 'what does this story teach Christians today?'

Question 5(b) (c) (d)

Question 5(b) was generally quite well answered and most candidates answering it were able to provide two basic reasons, whilst some were able (as shown in the example) to develop these to gain maximum marks.

In part (c) again there were some good answers to this question with many candidates being able to show why the resurrection is important for Christians today. Some candidates did confuse the reasons for its importance with those normally associated with the crucifixion (forgiveness of sins etc) rather than those more normally linked to the resurrection (hope for the future; hope of everlasting life etc).

In 5(d) there were some good answers to this question and some considerable sympathy shown by candidates towards Judas. Many were able to produce good reasons on both sides of the argument.



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Examiner Comments

The example here for question 5(b) shows how two basic reasons on a part (b) question can be developed to gain maximum marks.

The first basic reason is that Jesus died for the sins of mankind. This is then developed to show why this was important.

The second basic reason, 'to show God's love for us', is developed by illustrating how the crucifixion shows God's love for us - by giving up his only son to die for us.

Question 6(b) (c) (d)

In part (b) most candidates were aware of the events in the Garden of Gethsemane, but whilst many candidates could show why these events showed weakness, there were a significant number of candidates who just gave a description of events.

Question 6(c) was generally a well answered question, but as with 5(c) there was with some candidates, confusion between the crucifixion and resurrection.

Question 6(d) was generally quite well answered. Most candidates answering this question were able to make the link between the Last Supper and the Eucharist in the church today. But many candidates struggled either to find three reasons on each side of the argument or to develop their reasons to gain full marks.

(d) (i) The last supper is not irrelevant to christian today because jesus said 'this is my body, take it in memory of me' and christians do that at church every week. It helps people linked with jesus as we take the bread and wine in memory of him as his body and blood.

(iii) People may disagree as jesus died for our sin and people could think that there is no more sin in the world therefore they don't need to remember it. Also people might think that it happened so long ago it doesn't matter anymore.



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Examiner Comments

In this answer to (d)(i) the candidate has given one reason opposing the statement (Jesus said 'this is my body' which Christians do every week in church). This is then developed by saying that this keeps people linked with Jesus. So this awarded 2 marks. Two reasons are given but the first reason doesn't really tackle the issue. The second basic reason (it happened so long ago it doesn't really matter any more) is awarded 1 mark.



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Examiner Tip

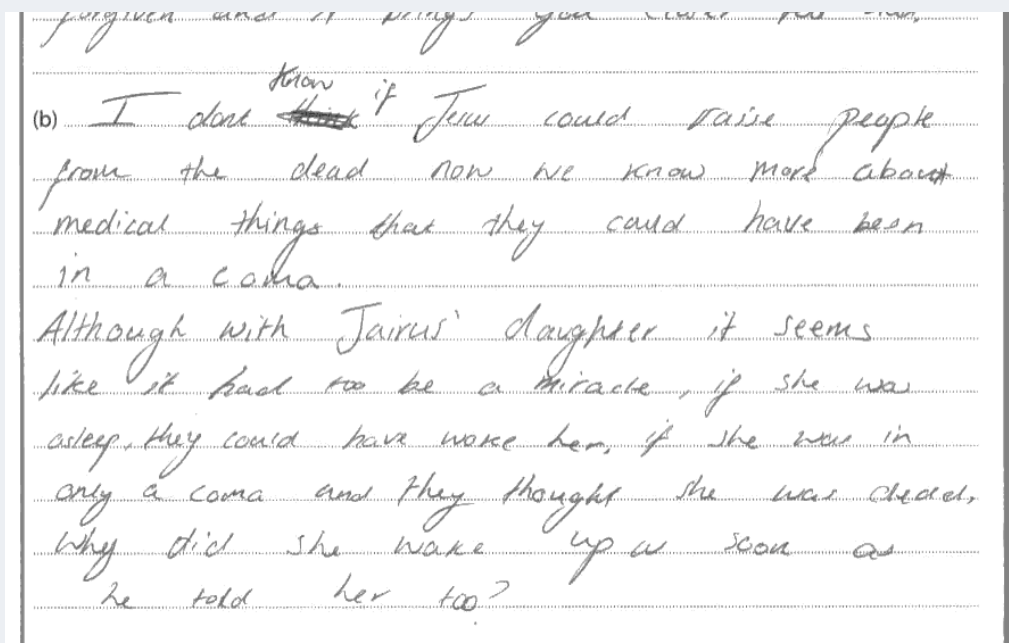
For the (d) questions try to think of 3 simple reasons on both sides of the issue.

Question 7(b) (c) (d)

There were some quite good answers given in response to question 7 (b) with candidates citing as reasons for saying yes, Jesus' divinity; Jairus' daughter; other miracles; and citing as reasons for saying no, mainly scientific reasons.

Not all candidates found question 7(c) an easy question and often got muddled between Son of God, Son of Man and Messiah. There were however some good responses citing such evidence as the voice at the Baptism and the Transfiguration; the words of the centurion. Many candidates also referred to the miracles as evidence.

In question 7(d) again most candidates were able to produce at least one reason on each side of the argument with many candidates being able to improve by either developing their reasons or by giving more reasons.



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Examiner Comments

In this example the candidate has expressed the view that he/she doesn't know whether Jesus could raise the dead. This is perfectly permissible for a candidate to do.

The candidate has given one reason and developed it with reference to Jairus' daughter.

Therefore it is awarded 2 marks. It needed another reason in order to gain any more marks.

Question 8(b) (c) (d)

In response to 8(b) there were some good answers which used such evidences as Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi; the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany; and the miracles and resurrection as showing that he was. A few candidates also referred to the entry into Jerusalem. There were some candidates who were confused between the various titles of Jesus.

In 8(c) a lot of candidates were able to describe the events of the baptism but then could not explain what these events showed about his nature. There were also more than a few candidates who said that the baptism showed that Jesus must have been a sinner because baptism is for the washing away of sins. This was awarded no marks.

In response to part 8(d) again, most candidates were able to produce one or sometimes two reasons on both sides of the argument. Many candidates accepted that the event happened but then gave reasons for why it would not have happened literally as in the Gospel for example sandbanks, walking beside the water etc.

(c) The baptism shows that Jesus was taking on all our sins and washing them away in the river Jordan. also bee when he was anointed

with water shows he was the anointed one the messiah. another point is a dove came down a dove symbolises peace shows Jesus to be a peaceful man and lastly a voice from heaven saying how pleased he was with Jesus showing he was the son of God.



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Examiner Comments

This answer only gives one valid feature explaining what it shows about Jesus' identity. It refers to the voice from heaven and shows this as pointing to Jesus being the Son of God. So it was only awarded level 1 and the higher of the two marks because it was a coherent response.

In order to gain more marks, the answer would need to perhaps refer to Jesus being the one who would baptise with the Holy Spirit; maybe the baptism showing Jesus' link with the Trinity with some development of one or more of these points.

Although individual questions are dealt with more thoroughly in the rest of the report, there are some general comments that can be made in the approach to questions generally.

The part (a) questions are best approached by learning the glossary definitions.

The part (b) questions require the candidate to give their own personal view on a topic. The question also asks them to give two reasons for their view. Many candidates gave 3 or 4 simple reasons but could only be credited for two. Candidates need to practise the skill of developing their reasons in order to gain maximum marks. Candidates can 'sit on the fence' ('I cannot decide one way or the other') in their answers providing they have given reasons for this.

The part (c) question are similar to the part (c) questions in the previous specification with the exception that the quality of written communication is assessed here. These questions are marked by levels (4 of them - each level having 2 marks available to it).

The part (d) questions are in the same format as in the previous specification except that in order to direct the candidates a little more into providing two sides of an argument, they are asked firstly to give their own opinion and then are asked to say why some people may disagree with them. The marks available for this section have also been increased from 4 to 6.

In each (d) question the candidates are asked to refer to Christianity in their answer. This is to bring this paper in line with the rest of the units on offer in this specification where candidates are asked to refer to a specific religion. Any reference in the answer to Mark's Gospel will of course qualify as a reference to Christianity. Candidates are reminded that this is a study of Mark's Gospel and that is what is being looked for in their response.

Grade Boundaries:

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	80	59	51	43	35	29	24	19	14	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	0

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