

Examiners' Report June 2015

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS16 01

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Introduction

This specification is now well-established, this being the sixth year in which it has been examined. It will be examined for the last time in 2017, after which a new specification will be in place. Centres should now be familiar with the layout and weighting of the paper.

Unit 16 is the unit that covers Mark's Gospel. This unit is generally taken in combination with one of the Religion and Life papers or with either Christianity or Catholic Christianity. It is the only unit in the Pearson/Edexcel Religious Studies 'suite' of papers that is a textually-based paper.

Please note: In the exemplar clips, inverted commas are used to indicate the essential content of a candidate's response - it may or may not be quoted verbatim.

Question 1 (a-d)

This question was moderately well-answered but was not as popular as Question (Q) 2.

(a) Most candidates knew the definition of 'disciples'.

(b) Most candidates knew the parable of the Sower, but they were not always able to explain how it was helpful to Christians today, although there were some very good answers.

(c) Whilst some candidates recognised the incident that was being referred to in the question, there were quite a few who found it difficult, tending to write about the problems being a Christian could have on family life in general.

(d) Most candidates recognised the incident and there were some thoughtful answers given.

Below is an example of a near full-mark answer to this question, with some comments about how and why the marks were awarded.

Write your answer here:

(a) Disciples are those who follow Jesus' teaching and accept the word of God.

(b) I do think that the Parable of the Sower is helpful to Christians today because firstly it shows us how Jesus viewed people and how they accepted the word of God, this helps them to understand the difference between being a good and a bad Christian. Secondly it shows them that Jesus knew not everybody would represent the 'fertile' soil however those who did would enter the kingdom of heaven.

(c) The story ~~the story~~ of the true family causes problems for some Christians today because firstly people think it was very harsh of Jesus to reject

his family in such a way, leaving them to stand outside the house after travelling such a long way. Many believe that either this was not Yeshu Jesus or perhaps Jesus is not who they thought he was.

Secondly because of this change in his character many believe that Mark made this story up to demonstrate how everyone who follows Jesus' teachings is his family. If this is the case then how much of Mark's Gospel can they trust?

Thirdly some people find it difficult to accept that this is a call of discipleship as it is a harsh one. Giving up your related family may prove too hard for some and stop them from following God.

Lastly Some may disagree that the Church is a family as there are many branches that are often in conflict with one another. This is not like a real human family so why should it replace one?

(d) (i) To disagree with the statement that 'the spirit cast out of the boy' teaching causes no problems for Christians today because firstly some dispute the fact that it was a demon inside the boy. Some say the symptoms he displayed were those of epilepsy or other illnesses. Secondly if this were the case then it means that Jesus might not have healed the boy he may simply have stopped having a fit at the right moment. Lastly if this is the case then it would mean that Jesus did not perform a miracle and some may doubt him.

(ii) Some may disagree with me because firstly there is no evidence that the boy had any other fits after his encounter with Jesus. Secondly this may prove that even if the boy did have epilepsy Jesus still healed him. Lastly many people witnessed this happen. Surely if it had been a fraud someone would have noticed and it would have been brought to light by now?

(a) Although this is not the wording used in the mark scheme it is a sufficient paraphrase of the correct answer to be awarded.

2 marks

(b) Two developed reasons given:

Reason 1 'It shows ... how they accepted the word of God'. This was developed by understanding the difference between good and bad Christians

Reason 2 'Not everybody would represent the 'fertile' soil.' This was developed by 'those who did will enter the kingdom of heaven'

4 marks

(c) Three reasons given, with one of them developed

Reason 1 'It was very harsh of Jesus to reject his family in such a way.' This is developed by 'this was not like Jesus'

Reason 2 'Mark made this story up to demonstrate how....'

Reason 3 'May prove too hard for some and stop them from following God'

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4.

8 marks

(d)(i) Three reasons given

Reason 1 'Some dispute that it was a demon'

Reason 2 'Some say it was epilepsy'

Reason 3 'He may simply have stopped having a fit at that moment'

3 marks

(d)(ii) Two reasons given

Reason 1 'Jesus still healed him'

Reason 2 'Many people witnessed this'. The first sentence about there being no evidence of further fits is irrelevant. The first sentence does not seem to answer the question. Therefore, this response only receives only 2 marks.

2 marks

Another possible reason that could have been given for part (ii) might be the fact that Jesus performed other miracles in which demons were cast out (eg Legion).

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) High performance. The candidate spells, punctuates and uses the rules of grammar with consistent accuracy.

4 marks

Total = 23 marks

Be careful that you only answer the parts (a) (b) (c) (d) from one of the two questions on the page. If you take parts from both questions you could lose many marks.

Question 2 (a-d)

Q2 was much more popular than Q1. However it was not as well-answered - largely because of 2 (c), which proved to be difficult.

(a) This part was generally recognised as being about laws or rules, but many candidates had not learned the glossary definition, which is specifically about the Ten Commandments.

(b) This part was generally well-answered, with a variety of different approaches. Many candidates highlighted differences in society between Jesus' day and today.

(c) This question was pointing to a specific passage (Mark 10:41-45), which is a particular point in the specification. Many candidates did not realise this and wrote very generalised answers about the problems of discipleship and therefore did not obtain any marks.

(d) Most candidates were familiar with the story of Peter's denial and were able to answer this question well. Many showed a lot of sympathy with the situation in which Peter found himself.

Below are two answers - one with several lost marks and one full-mark answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) ~~The~~ The 10 commandments ~~to~~ rules by Jesus which every christian should try and follow.

(b) I don't think it is easy to be a disciple of Jesus today. My first reason in this world today there is alot more to give up in your life to go and follow Jesus. like nice clothes car holidays the world today is alot more tempting to people then it ever was. my second reason the world today is not as holy and so much based on faith as it once was, so it makes it harder for some body to have the guts to say they are giving their life to god were there is alot of people with a very negative

opinion on your choice makes it not easy to be a disciple today.

(c) my first reason problems are shown is because, it shows that not all the disciples agree on everything together the problem this leads to cause is where do they stand when coming to a agree ment on which opinion is right and which is wrong

my second problem the disciples make mistakes like every normal human in this world the problem makes us think the disciples are never really supposed to make mistakes Jesus picked them for a reason but he couldn't make the right decisions.

my third reason not every single disciple is fully involved in what is going on in the teaching or the service the problem this causes is as Catholics are supposed to make everyone feel welcomed not left out this causes the use of preach what you teach.

(d) (i) I do think that ^{peter} ~~jesus~~ was wrong to deny Jesus. My first reason he is a disciple to Jesus he is supposed to back him up all the way and be there for his discipleship is about team working staying strong to your faith as hard as the situation you are in is. He is also wrong because if he was Jesus he would expect the disciples to be there and support him. It's wrong it shows he is only worried about him self and what would happen to him he is selfish self centred.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me and say he had a reason to do what he did he was looking at it from the long run and the outcome. Another reason some people may say he was in a state of shock he panicked didn't know what to do. He later regretted his choice. Another reason people may say he is human everybody makes mistakes and do stuff they don't mean.



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Examiner Comments

(a) This answer provides two partially-correct answers. But two partially correct answers do not make a fully correct answer, therefore this is given 1 mark for being partially correct. It is incorrect to say that Jesus gave The Ten Commandments.

1 mark

(b) Two developed reasons given

Reason 1 'In the world today there is a lot more to give up'. This is developed by examples of clothes and holidays.

son 2 'The world is not as holy as it once was'. This is developed by 'lots of people with a negative opinion'.

4 marks

(c) There is nothing in this answer relating to Chapter 10:35-45. There is nothing, really, about service at all.

0 marks

Quality of Written Communication (QWC) can only be awarded to answers that are awarded marks.

(d)(i) Three reasons given

Reason 1 'he is supposed to back him up'

Reason 2 'about staying strong to your faith'

Reason 3 'he is only worried about himself'

3 marks

(d)(ii) Two valid reasons - the first reason is vague so no credit given

Reason 1 'he panicked'

Reason 2 'everybody makes mistakes'

marks

SPaG: it is intermediate performance - there is general control and a fair level of accuracy in spelling

3 marks

Total = 13 marks



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Examiner Tip

The easiest way of ensuring full marks in the (a) questions is to learn the glossary definition of the words.

Write your answer here:

- (a) The collection of 10 laws handed down by God.
- (b) I don't think it is easy to be a disciple of Jesus today because being a disciples means sacrifice it's hard for people to give everything up.
- My second reason is disciples were sent out to preach to others which is hard today as a lot of people don't want to listen.
- (c) The problems of discipleship are shown in Jesus' teaching about service because service requires self-sacrifice which means putting other people's needs before your own and putting ~~to~~ yourself last. It's hard for everyone to put themselves last.

A second ~~reason~~ problem that is shown is that it can lead some people to living a unhappy lives which Jesus' teachings shouldn't be about.

A third ~~problem~~ ^{shown} problem that is ~~shown~~ is service of others leads to people pushing their own wants aside and some people can take you for granted.

A final point is that even Mother Teresa shows that service of others is hard which makes some believe it is impossible for them to follow this teaching.

(d) (i) I agree with the statement that Peter was wrong to deny Jesus because he ~~didn't stand up for~~ ^{didn't} ~~was supposed to~~ ^{admitted he was a follower he} ~~stand by~~ ^{is} ~~Jesus because he failed him so what chance have we?~~ Jesus.

A second reason is that Peter ~~is~~ ^{if} ~~showing he is~~ ^{admitted he was a follower he} ~~ashamed to~~ ^{would've been killed} ~~be a disciple of Jesus~~ so he wouldn't have been able to spread God's word and Jesus' teachings.

A third reason is that Peter ~~was~~ ^{didn't} ~~scared~~ ^{to} stand up for his own religion how can we do the same if even his closest disciples couldn't?

(ii) Some people disagree with me because Jesus forgave Peter which comforts Christians that their sins will be forgiven.

A second reason some people disagree with me because Peter was following God's plan for Jesus.

A third reason some people disagree ~~with~~ with me because it shows that even failures can succeed as Peter went on to become the first Pope.

(a) A fully-correct answer

2 marks

(b) Two developed reasons given

Reason 1 'being a disciple means sacrifice', which is developed by 'it's hard to give up everything'

Reason 2 'the disciples were sent out to preach to others', which is developed by 'people don't want to listen'

4 marks

(c) Three reasons given, with one developed

Reason 1 'service requires self-sacrifice', which is developed by 'putting yourself last'

Reason 2 'some people can take you for granted'

Reason 3 The example of Mother Teresa

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4

8 marks

(d)(i) Three reasons given

Reason 1 'he was supposed to stick by Jesus'

Reason 2 If he admitted it, he 'would've been killed and wouldn't have been able to spread God's word'

Reason 3- How can we stand up for our own religion if even his closest followers couldn't

3 marks

(d)(ii) Two reasons, with one developed

Reason 1 Peter was following God's plan

Reason 2 'even failures can succeed' developed by he 'became the first pope'

3 marks

SPaG High performance. The candidate spells, punctuates and uses the rule of grammar with consistent accuracy.

4 marks

Total = 24 marks

Question 3 (a)

Q3 (a) was not as well-answered as some of the other (a) questions.

Below are two examples - one of a fairly typical incorrect answer and the other of a correct answer.

(a) The corban is like a dial what
the Jewish people read there prayers
at in the temple



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Examiner Comments

An incorrect answer - probably confusing corban with the Torah.

Total = 0 marks

WRITE YOUR ANSWER HERE.

(a) A gift that is offered to
~~God~~ God and God only.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

A fully correct answer. Although worded differently from the glossary definition, it expresses the sense of that definition.

Total = 2 marks

Question 3 (b-d)

Generally, this was a well-answered question.

(b) This was well-known. Many candidates made the point that the laws Jesus was breaking were the man-made interpretations of the commandment to keep the Sabbath holy. Some suggested Jesus was wrong to break the law because he was setting a bad example to his followers.

(c) This again, was generally well-known with many candidates being able to explain why the incident could have led to conflict.

(d) This was generally well-known, although there were some candidates who did not understand the term 'cleansing of the temple' and thought it meant that Jesus cleaned it because it was dirty.

Below is an example of an answer that was very good but not quite perfect.

(b) I do not believe that Jesus was wrong to break the Sabbath Laws. I have this belief because when Jesus and his disciples were caught ~~breaking~~ as they walked from town to town by the Pharisees they were ~~the~~ frowned upon as they were working ~~and~~, harvesting and preparing a meal 'as they picked the ears of corn. This was breaking the Sabbath Law. However, Jesus replied "remember when King David broke into the Temple to feed his followers is it not the same thing?". This confused the pharisees as they did not want to admit Jesus was right. Jesus said 'you are hypocrites' ~~and~~ ~~started~~ as 'the Sabbath was made for man not by man'.

(c) The anointing at Bethany could've led to conflict amongst the Religious groups like the Zealots, Pharisees and Sadducees and Jesus. This is because the Women at Bethany poured

a perfume of oils over Jesus. This elixir was very expensive estimated at around 200 silver coins. The ~~expensive~~ equivalent to £10,000 today. The religious groups argued that this was a waste of money that could've been given as alms or to the poor. Jesus replied that what the women had done was a 'beautiful thing' for it had anointed him for his death.

This caused conflict between Jesus and the religious authorities as they saw it as a waste and if God wanted them to help the poor this was not it. However, Jesus believed that it was a kind and wonderful gesture as he knew that his death would be fast and an anointing would not ~~be~~ have occurred. He believed God was pleased with the women. This contrasted against what Jesus had said about riches in heaven.

(d) (i) Yes I agree that it was right for Jesus to have cleansed the Temple. I have this belief because the Temple was a place of worship and was not considered a place of exchanging money. Another reason is that it was a place for all nations and should be welcoming for everybody. Lastly, it was a house of God and by selling and buying items was disrespectful in the home of the Lord.

(ii) Some may disagree with me as it showed Jesus' human side as he was furious with the market merchants. Another reason was that it ruined people's day as they were unable to make a day's living and were refused entry. This created conflict between the Pharisees as he had not right to act like that. Lastly, the merchants were using the house of God inappropriately which shows the harsh side of Jesus.



(b) One developed reason

The reason is the quotation about King David. This is developed by 'the Pharisees did not want to admit Jesus was right'

Because there is only one reason, this answer cannot go beyond 2 marks.

In order for it to receive more marks another reason (such as a reference to healing on the Sabbath) is needed.

2 marks

(c) Two developed reasons given

Reason 1 'this was a waste of money', which is developed by 'it is a beautiful thing'

Reason 2 'If God wanted them to help the poor, this was not it', which is developed by 'Jesus believed it was a kind and wonderful gesture'

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4.

8 marks

(d)(i) Three reasons given

Reason 1 It is a place of worship and not exchanging money.

Reason 2 It is a place for all nations.

Reason 3 It is disrespecting the house of the Lord.

3 marks

(d)(ii) Three reasons given

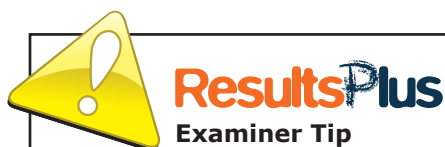
Reason 1 Jesus was furious.

Reason 2 They were unable to make a day's living.

Reason 3 He had no right to act like that.

3 marks

Total = 16 marks



The easiest way to answer the (d) questions is to give three valid reasons in each part.

Question 4 (a)

Most candidates knew what was meant by the Sabbath, although there were a few who confused it with another event - often with Passover.

Below are two examples - one incorrect, and one fully-correct, answer.

Write your answer here.

(a) The seventh day of the Passover given by the Jewish law.



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This is an incorrect answer. The Sabbath has nothing to do with Passover.

Total = 0 marks

Write your answer here.

(a) The Jewish day of rest ^{on} the last day of the week.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A fully-correct answer. The essential feature is 'day of rest'.

Total = 2 marks

Question 4 (b-d)

Some candidates found this question quite difficult - largely due to part (c).

(b) Most candidates were familiar with this story and were able to give a personal opinion on it.

(c) This was a challenging question. Whilst most candidates were familiar with the incident (although some thought Jesus was actually confronting Caesar face-to-face), many had difficulty in linking it with community cohesion. However, this is a section of the specification and so it should have been taught.

(d) Whilst there were some good answers to this question, quite a large number of candidates wrote about Jesus' teaching, rather than the things he did. In this question, teaching could really only be considered where it was linked to specific actions.

Below are two answers that lost marks for different reasons.

(b) I think that the woman at Bethany was right to anoint Jesus because she was getting him ready for his death.

~~Also because~~ I also think that she was wrong because she could of give that to the poor.

(c) Jesus answers the question give to Caesar and taxes because if he didnt it would of lead to conflict.

Also People should always pay taxes because it was the law then and it the law now.

Also because, you have to paid taxes even today you still have to paid taxes

(d) (i) ~~The actions of Jesus are bound~~
~~into conflict b~~ I agree that the
actions of Jesus bound to conflict because
he had to annoy the leaders to get
arrested

Also Jesus replied had to talk
back to the leaders to
fulfill prophesie

(ii) Some people may disagree with me and
say that Jesus' action were bound
to conflict because if they were
he would of got arrested
a long time ago.

Also because he is omniscient all
knowing which means he knows
what is going to happen and would
~~stop being~~ causing conflict.

(b) Two simple reasons given

Reason 1 She was getting him ready for his death.

Reason 2 She could have given it to the poor.

2 marks

In this case, the candidate uses a 'for-and-against' argument. This approach can be used providing both views are clearly demonstrated (as here) to be the views of the candidate.

The candidate would have gained 2 more marks if they had developed the two reasons given.

For example, they could have shown the link between anointing and death (dead bodies were anointed prior to burial).

The other reason could have been developed by demonstrating that the ointment was very expensive and could have been sold to give money to the poor.

(c) Two reasons given

Reason 1 It would have led to conflict.

Reason 2 People should always pay taxes because it is the law.

Again, more marks could have been awarded if the candidate had developed the reasons. For example, they could have said why his answer could have led to conflict. Alternatively, they could have said why the people did not like paying the taxes.

Also the answer could have been improved by explaining how this shows that Christians should work with the government for community cohesion.

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 2.

4 Marks

(d)(i) Only one reason given

He had to annoy the leaders to get arrested.

1 mark

Other reasons could have included references to such incidents as the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the cleansing of the temple, or eating with sinners.

(d)(ii) This does not answer the question

0 marks

Answers the candidate could have given include such points as that Jesus was trying to teach people the correct way to live rather than cause trouble, it was his opponents who caused the conflict, not Jesus; he went around helping people.

Total = 7 marks

(b) I do think that the women of Bethany was right to anoint Jesus because, whilst she could have used the money to help the poor, Jesus said that ~~that it wouldn't~~ ^{she} ~~that woman~~ have ended poverty, so ~~she~~ could have helped the poor at ~~any~~ ^{any} time, but she didn't have much ~~and~~ ^{more} time to serve Jesus. Also I do think that the woman of Bethany was right to anoint Jesus as he stated that she acted out of ~~kindness~~ kindness and that she could not be condemned for wanting to do something nice for Jesus, and that, even if she could have helped more people by selling the perfume and giving the money to the poor, she had clearly ~~given all she had to someone use~~ ^{given all she had to someone use} which was a great enough gesture of faith in Jesus.

(c) Jesus' answer to the question about taxes to Tiberius Caesar was significant for Christians today as it shows that the God isn't concerned with materialism.

Whilst the Jews believed that wealth was a sign of God's favour, Jesus' answer shows that ^{it is a Christians} ~~what is~~ duty to devote their life and soul to God rather than concerning themselves with materialistic desires like money. Jesus' answer is also significant because he condoned paying taxes to ~~the~~ Caesar, who the Romans accepted as a God. This shows that Jesus condones Christians today paying respect and appreciation to alternative religions, as long as Christians remain true to God in their hearts. Jesus' ^{answer} ~~teachings~~ ~~is~~ is also significant as Jesus condoned what many Jews at the time saw as blasphemy, for the sake of community cohesion; Jesus' answer showed that ~~it made~~ Christians should always try and peacefully co-exist with other cultures and religions, even in times of oppression (like forced to pay taxes to a false idol). Jesus' answer ~~is~~ is also significant as it shows that Christians shouldn't hold themselves to a higher standard than any other religion in regards to entitlement, and should instead follow rules and regulations but always stay true to God in ^{their} ~~these~~ hearts and minds.

(d) (i) I ^{do} ~~don't~~ agree that the actions of Jesus were bound to cause conflict because in Christianity ^{it is taught} ~~Jesus~~ ^{that} Jesus ^{was} the incarnation of God, and Jesus' actions ~~in~~ that reflected this such as ^{referring} ~~referring~~ to himself as the 'son of man' and claiming the ability to 'forgive sins' ^{were} ~~were~~ bound to conflict with the Jewish idea of the messiah. I ~~do~~ also agree that the actions of Jesus were bound to cause conflict because he had prophesized his death, meaning he knew some would reject his message. I also agree that the actions of Jesus were bound to cause conflict because (ii) he said he would 'divide households and nations'.

Some people ~~or~~ may disagree with me because they believe that as the ^{son} ~~son~~ of God Jesus had the authority to do everything he did, so there ~~shouldn't~~ have been any disagreements. Also some people may believe that the actions of Jesus ^{were} ~~were~~ bound to cause conflict as he was very careful not to deliberately ^{cause} ~~cause~~ offense to the Jewish authorities by revealing his message through parables and calling himself 'son of man' rather than 'son of God'.

(b) Two reasons given, with one of them developed

Reason 1 'she could have helped the poor at any time' which is developed by 'but she didn't have much more time to serve Jesus'

Reason 2 He stated that she acted out of kindness

3 marks

The second reason could have been developed by saying why she might have acted out of kindness.

(c) Four reasons given

Reason 1 God isn't concerned with materialism.

Reason 2 It is a Christian's duty to devote their life and soul to God.

Reason 3 Jesus condoned paying taxes to Caesar.

Reason 4 (at end of answer) We should follow rules and regulations but always stay true to God.

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4

8 Marks

(d)(i) One reason given

Reason – claiming the ability to forgive sins.

1 mark

A lot of this answer is not about actions but teachings. Other reasons which could have been given can be found in the answers given in the other example.

(d)(ii) One reason given

Reason - Jesus had the authority to do everything he did.

1 mark

Likewise, this answer is not about actions. Other reasons can be found in the other example.

Total = 13 marks

Question 5 (a)

Q5 (a) Most candidates correctly identified Golgotha as the place where Jesus was crucified. A majority of them also mentioned the meaning of the name: 'place of the skull'.

There were some candidates who identified Golgotha incorrectly, as can be seen below.

Again, here are two responses - one incorrect and one fully-correct.

write your answer here:

(a) Golgotha was the sign placed above Jesus's skull when he was crucified



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Examiner Comments

This is an incorrect answer. Although the candidate has used the word 'skull', it was insufficient to be given any credit.

Total = 0 marks

write your answer here:

(a) Golgotha was the place where Jesus was crucified, it was a garden.



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Examiner Comments

This answer identifies Golgotha correctly as the place where Jesus was crucified and is sufficient for full marks. The erroneous extra comment that it was a garden, is ignored.

Total = 2 marks

Question 5 (b-d)

Q5 (b)(c)(d) This question was generally well-known and well-answered.

(b) Most candidates were able to identify the trial before the High Priest, although a number confused it with the trial before Pilate. Some candidates had a combination of details from both trials.

(c) This was generally very well-answered and a number of candidates gained full marks.

(d) Some thoughtful reasons were given on both sides of this argument. Many candidates felt that the crucifixion was more important than the resurrection, because it was through the crucifixion that sins are forgiven.

Below is a full-mark answer, showing how maximum marks can be achieved.

(b) I do not think that the trial before the High Priest was fair as the trial ~~was taken~~ took place at night time however blasphemy cases are supposed to take place during the day. Also the trial was unfair as he was wrongly accused, Jesus did not actually say that he was God but instead that he was Christ, therefore showing he was wrongly accused as he did not commit blasphemy. As well as the trial before the High Priest was unfair because there is a requirement of two witnesses to testify against people who commit blasphemy however there was only one.

(c) The account of the Last Supper is significant for Mark as it marks the new covenant that Jesus was establishing on Earth. Therefore this is significant ~~as it~~ for Mark as it

founded the Eucharist that is used today. Also the Last Supper is significant for Mark because it closely resembles the Passover therefore showing how this was a religious meal also.

As well as the Last Supper is significant for Mark as the lamb was sacrificed for the meal therefore Jesus symbolises the lamb as his own blood will be spilled as a sacrifice for others to save us from sin.

Another reason why the Last Supper is significant for Mark is that Jesus predicted his death again when he said 'This is my body broken for you'. Therefore this is significant as it shows that Jesus understood the sacrifice that he would have to make and he accepted his fate.

As well as the Last Supper is significant for Mark as Jesus also predicted how one of the disciples would betray him. This is significant as Jesus said 'one of you who dips your hand in the bowl of bread we share' therefore this shows the closeness of the disciples. This is significant in the Last Supper as it shows that Jesus understood that one of the disciples would betray him and he forgave them.

(d) (i) I do think that Jesus' resurrection was the most important event in his life as it showed how Jesus ~~was~~ correctly predicted his resurrection. In the Bible, Jesus said 'It is written that the Son of God will rise after three days' therefore the resurrection is the most important event in Jesus' life as it demonstrates how he ~~fulfilled~~ fulfilled the prophecies. Also Jesus' resurrection was the most important event in his life because it shows how Jesus had saved Christians from sin and death therefore fulfilling the mission he had been sent by God to do. Also people say it is important as it showed how Jesus finally joined God in heaven.

(ii) However others may disagree with me and say that Jesus' resurrection was not the most important event in his life instead some Christians believe it was the events in which he healed people. ~~Another~~ Christianity suggest that these moments were the most important as Jesus showed his supernatural powers and they demonstrated how he came to ~~serve~~ serve others. Also others say that Jesus' resurrection was not the most important event in Jesus' life. Instead Christians suggest that the crucifixion was the most important as it displays Jesus fulfilling the prophecies and some Christians suggest that this is the actual moment that Jesus saved us from sin and death therefore it is the most important.

(b) Two developed reasons given

Reason 1 'it took place at night time', which was developed by 'blasphemy cases should take place during the day'

Reason 2 'He was wrongly accused', which was developed by 'he did not say he was God, but the Christ'

4 marks

(c) Three reasons given, with one developed

Reason 1 It marks the new covenant.

Reason 2 It founded the Eucharist.

Reason 3 'it resembles the Passover', which was developed by 'the lamb that was sacrificed for the meal'

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4.

8 marks

(d)(i) Two reasons given, with one developed

Reason 1 'He predicted it', which was developed by 'it is written....'.

Reason 2 He fulfilled the prophecies.

The rest of the answer is more about death and ascension rather than resurrection, but the candidate has, in any case, gained maximum marks.

3 marks

(d)(ii) One fully-developed reason

Reason 'events in which he healed people', which is developed by He 'showed his supernatural powers' and further developed by 'he came to serve others'

3 marks

Total marks = 18

Developing reasons (often with a relevant quotation or reference to a relevant incident) will increase your marks.

Question 6 (a)

Q6 (a) Most candidates knew what was meant by the upper room, although a surprising number of candidates thought that it was a reference to heaven.

Below are two examples of answers - one of which is partially-correct and one which is fully-correct.

write your answer here:

(a) The room were the disciples hide away for 10 days after Jesus' death.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

There is a partial identification of the upper room here, but to gain full marks it needed to have some reference to the Last Supper or the first Eucharist.

Total = 1 mark

write your answer here:

(a) The upper room in Mark's gospel is where Jesus and his twelve disciples ate the last supper.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

A fully correct answer, which gains full marks.

Total = 2 marks

Question 6 (b-d)

Q6 (b)(c)(d) Those candidates choosing this question performed quite well and, in general, seemed to have a reasonable knowledge of the accounts.

(b) There were very many full-mark answers for this part, mainly centering around Jesus dying for the forgiveness of sins.

(c) Most candidates were able to provide good answers for this question, although there was a sizeable number of answers that strayed into the detail of Jesus' trial.

(d) Again, there were some very thoughtful answers, in which candidates showed they understood the question.

Below are two answers. In one, the (c) question did not receive full marks. The other example is a full-mark answer.

(b) I think the crucifixion is important for Christians today as it reminds us of Jesus' suffering which led to Christians being able to have a new relationship with God. I also think the crucifixion is important because it reminds Christians that ~~Jesus died for our sins~~, and God gave his only son for us which highlights the deep love God holds for humanity.

(c) The betrayal and arrest of Jesus is significant in Mark's gospel because. In this story Mark highlights the injustice suffered by Jesus. firstly.

the trial took place at night, this was done so Jesus' popularity would not ~~cause~~^{cause} a scene. Trials at night were not allowed and went against Jewish law. Secondly, the trial was undergone using false witnesses, using false witnesses was seen as illegal and these witnesses were not charged which is against Jewish law. Thirdly, one of the Jewish laws on trials was no one was to be sentenced due to anything said by them themselves, Jesus was sentenced for committing blasphemy when he called himself the "Son of God". Lastly, during the trial Jesus was whipped and spat at, this normally was not allowed at a trial but when it came to Jesus it was not stopped which shows injustice. The betrayal is also significant as Jesus predicted this at the last supper to the disciples and they all denied.

(d) (i) I do not agree with this statement because in Gethsemane Jesus asked God 'please take this suffering away from me, but let not what I want, but your will be done'. This shows God and Jesus as separate. I also do not agree as in Gethsemane Jesus showed human traits such as fear and regret, this shows he is also human, not like God. I also do not agree as in Christianity it teaches Jesus is the son of God and part of the Holy Trinity, in the Garden Jesus prays to God, making him separate.

(ii) Some others may disagree with me as they may believe Jesus is God but in physical form, and the prayers may have been his own thoughts. Some others may also disagree as they may be agnostic and believe in Jesus but may question God's existence. Lastly others may disagree as they may have a different view on the Holy Trinity and believe that Jesus is God.



(b) Two developed reasons given

Reason 1 'it reminds us of Jesus' suffering', which is developed by 'which led to Christians having a new relationship with God'

Reason 2 'God gave his only son', which is developed by 'this highlights the deep love of God'

4 marks

(c) Two reasons given

Reason 1 He was arrested unfairly.

Reason 2 (comes right at the end of the response) the betrayal is significant because Jesus predicted it. The rest of the response concerns the trial, rather than the arrest and betrayal, so does not answer the question.

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 2.

4 marks

(d)(i) Two reasons given, with one developed

Reason 1 'this shows God and Jesus as separate', which is developed by (earlier) the words of Jesus' prayer.

Reason 2 Jesus showed human traits such as fear.

3 marks

(d)(ii) Three reasons given

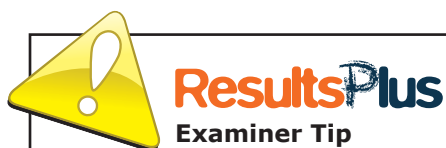
Reason 1 Jesus is God in physical form.

Reason 2 Prayers may have been his thoughts.

Reason 3 May question God's existence.

3 marks

Total = 14 marks



In the (c) questions, write each reason as a separate paragraph. It shows your ideas clearly.

last supper.

(b) I think the crucifixion of Jesus is important for Christians today because it shows the suffering and pain that Jesus went through in order to save us from our sins. It also shows us how much he loved us and cared for us that he would sacrifice himself for us.

Another reason is because it shows us that we must stand up for what we believe is true even if it means we have to die for it.

(c) The betrayal and arrest is significant in Mark's gospel because it shows us that Jesus' prophecy ~~to~~ came true. This proves his super-natural powers and the fact that he is the son of God.

The arrest also shows us ~~that~~ the conflict we may face in the act of following Jesus. But it also

teaches us that we must stand up for what we believe in and fight for the truth even though if we have to die for it. Another reason why ~~is~~ ~~that~~ it is significant is because Jesus didn't become violent or put up a fight which shows that he was willing to die for us. This shows his love and care ~~for~~ ~~us~~ he has for us and the fact that he was willing to sacrifice his life for our sins shows that he truly cares about us and loves us.

(d) (i) I disagree. This is because ~~in~~ in Gethsemane, Jesus showed his fear and even went as far as crying. This shows his human side which tells me that he is human. If he were God, he would have been stronger and more powerful than the way he was in the garden Gethsemane.

Another reason is because he was praying to God. But if he is God. How can he pray to himself?

(ii) Some may disagree with me because in the bible it says that Jesus is God which means that if you are christian, you believe in the fact that Jesus is God. ~~As a~~

Also they may say that after he prayed, he walked straight to the ~~for~~ guards to be arrested without a struggle which shows that Jesus has great power ~~and~~ and strength to sacrifice himself like that.

(b) Two developed reasons given

Reason 1 Shows the suffering and pain he went through, which is developed by 'to save us from our sins'.

Reason 2 Showed us how much he loved us, developed by 'that he would sacrifice himself'.

4 marks

(c) Two developed reasons

Reason 1 Shows us that Jesus' prophecy came true, which is developed by which proves that 'he is the Son of God'.

Reason 2 Shows us the conflict we may face in following Jesus, which is developed by 'we must stand up for what we believe in'.

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4

8 Marks

(d)(i) One fully-developed reason given

Reason 1 Jesus showed fear, which is developed by this shows his human side and is further developed by if he was God he would have been stronger.

3 marks

(d)(ii) Two reasons given, with one developed

Reason 1 If you are a Christian you believe Jesus is God.

Reason 2 After he prayed he walked straight to the guards, which is developed by which shows that Jesus had great strength to sacrifice himself.

3 marks

Total = 18 marks

Question 7 (a)

Q7 (a) Most candidates were aware that Jairus was the father of a girl who Jesus raised from the dead.

Below are two answers - one an incorrect answer and the other a fully-correct answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) Jairus was one of the 12 disciples selected by Jesus.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

An incorrect answer

Total = 0 marks

Write your answer here:

(a) Jairus is the synagogue leader whose daughter was brought back to life by Jesus.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

A fully-correct answer

Total = 2 marks

Question 7 (b-d)

Q7 (b)(c)(d) This question was much less popular than Q8. Those candidates that did answer gave quite reasonable responses.

(b) Readers may wonder why a question based on a passage in Matthew's gospel is found in a paper based on Mark's gospel. The reason is that it is in the specification and, as such, has to be asked from time-to-time. It was put into the specification because the account in Matthew is different from that in Mark and is crucial to Roman Catholic understanding of the role of Peter as the first pope.

A number of candidates were confused by the word *confession* and thought it was referring to Peter saying sorry after he had denied knowing Jesus. *Confession*, here, means declaration.

(c) Most answers to this question centred around the idea that baptism is a sign of the washing away of sin, but Jesus is supposed to be sinless so why did he need to be baptised?

(d) Most candidates were able to produce some quite thoughtful answers to this question.

Below is a full-mark answer.

(b) I do, because firstly, in Matthew's account, Jesus says 'on this rock I will build my Church', meaning that Peter should be head of the Church. This is important because Catholics understand this as Jesus choosing Peter to be the first leader, and therefore the first Pope. Secondly, it shows that Jesus trusted in Peter, his disciple, to carry on his work. Jesus knew that Peter recognised Him as the Son of God, and this was the first time that anyone had recognised Him. After Jesus knew Peter knew who He was, Jesus trusted Peter to set up His Church and spread His word after His death.

(c) Firstly, baptism is to forgive sins. If Jesus was the Son of God, then He should not have any sins, and therefore not need to be baptised, as He would be already free from sin and pure. Secondly, it was the first time

That the Trinity appeared together, when God's voice came down from Heaven and the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove. However, it is difficult for some Christians today to believe that this actually happened, and that the people there were not having a vision, rather than actually seeing something in front of them.

Thirdly, if Jesus needed to be baptised, then this could mean that He was not really God's Son, or that He was, but if He needed to be baptised, then we would need much more to remove our sins and to purify us. If He was not God's Son, then the Christian religion would not work ^{and would be a lie}.

Finally, Jesus came to die ~~to~~ for the sins of the world. If He was dying for our sins, then some Christians may say that He did not need to be baptised, and neither do we. However, Jesus was baptised, so some Christians may question if this was necessary and if it is relevant today or not.

(d) (i) I, as a Christian, disagree because firstly, Jesus fulfilled many prophecies that the Messiah would fill, and also rose from the dead. Secondly, Jesus performed miracles such as the feeding of the five thousand and the healing of Legion, showing His powers over nature, evil and sickness, powers that only God would have. Thirdly, Jesus knew that He was going to die but did not ~~try~~ try to run away; He knew that it was the only way to save

our sins. If He was a normal man, He would not have known of His death and if He did, He would have run away - He did not and fulfilled a prophecy, showing He was the Son of God.

(iii) However, some people may say that firstly, if He was the Son of God, He could have saved Himself from dying and not suffered lots of pain. Secondly, Jesus did not fulfil prophecies in the way lots of the Jews hoped; He was not a leader who was going to free them from Roman rule, which is what they wanted. Therefore, He cannot be the Son of God as He did not free the Jews. Thirdly, Jesus did not need to pray to God in the Garden of Gethsemane if He was God's Son, however He did, so He cannot be God's Son as if He was, He would be a part of God and not need to pray to Him.

(b) Two developed reasons given

Reason 1 'On this rock I will build my church', which is developed by 'Peter should be the head of the church'

Reason 2 'Jesus trusted Peter to carry on his work', which is developed by 'Jesus trusted Peter to set up his Church'

4 marks

(c) Three reasons given, with one developed

Reason 1 If Jesus is the Son of God he should not have any sins.

Reason 2 'The Trinity appeared together', developed by 'it is difficult to believe it happened...'

Reason 3 This could mean he was not really God's Son.

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4

8 Marks

(d)(i) Three reasons given

Reason 1 Jesus fulfilled many prophecies.

Reason 2 He rose from the dead.

Reason 3 He performed miracles.

3 marks

(d)(ii) Three reasons given

Reason 1 He could have saved himself from dying.

Reason 2 He did not free the Jews as expected.

Reason 3 He did not need to pray if he was God's Son.

3 marks

Total = 18 marks

Part (b) questions only ask for what you think. You should not give two sides to an argument (unlike in the (d) questions) unless you cannot make up your mind and can argue your point of view from both sides. But both reasons must be your **own** point of view - not those of someone else.

Question 8 (a)

Q8 (a) Most candidates who answered this question knew about the Transfiguration, although some did confuse it with transubstantiation.

Below are two different examples of correct answers.

Write your answer here:

(a) When Jesus was changed in appearance.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

A correct answer. There is sufficient here to identify the incident.

Total = 2 marks

Write your answer here:

(a) The transfiguration was when Jesus went up a mountain and his appearance changed and god spoke to him.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

A fully-correct answer

Total = 2 marks

Question 8 (b-d)

Q8 (b)(c)(d) Generally, this question was well-answered - possibly the best-answered question on the paper.

(b) Most candidates knew the story of the healing of Legion and were able to identify some issues that could cause problems for Christians today - particularly around the idea of demon-possession or the treatment meted out to the pigs.

(c) This was generally very well-answered, with most candidates being able to identify things that this miracle shows about Jesus.

(d) Again, some thoughtful answers were given here, with discussions centering around science versus the miraculous.

Below is one answer that, although very good, did lose 2 marks.

- (b) I think that the healing of Legion causes problems for Christians today because Legion may have had a mental illness and not be possessed by a evil demon.
- I also think that the healing of Legion causes problems for Christians today because Jesus had casked out the demons and put it into 2000 pigs, showing that humans come before animals.
- (c) Firstly, the feeding of the five thousand shows that Jesus could perform healing miracles

to feed the hungry people. Secondly, the feeding of the 5000 shows that Jesus is the son of God, this is because "all things are ~~possible~~ possible through God." Thirdly, the feeding of the five thousand showed that he was the son of Man. This is because Jesus had cared about the people and caring for their needs.

Lastly, the feeding of the five thousand showed that Jesus had the powers of God in him, because he had made massive amounts of food from one batch, only God could do this.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement that "Jesus could have not walked on the sea" because in Christianity, it is believed that Jesus has power over nature, therefore he could walk on the sea.

I also disagree with the statement that "Jesus could have not walked on the sea" because Jesus was the sign of possible God and through God anything is possible. Some people may disagree with me because it had occurred early in the morning and the disciples of Jesus could have been seeing things or dreaming.

Some people may disagree with me because the mist over the sea in the morning ~~can~~ may have made the disciples interpret what they saw.

(b) Two reasons given, with one developed

Reason 1 'Legion may have had a mental illness', which is developed by him 'not being possessed by an evil demon'

Reason 2

(at the end) Showing that humans come before animals.

3 marks

The second reason could have been developed by saying that the pigs had stampeded over the cliff.

(c) Three reasons, with one developed

Reason 1 'shows that Jesus is the Son of God', which is developed by this is because 'all things are possible through God'

Reason 2 He was the Son of Man because he had cared about the people.

Reason 3 Showed that Jesus had the powers of God.

In this case, the candidate's communication is understandable so they will receive the higher of the 2 marks within Level 4

8 Marks

(d)(i) Two reasons given, with one developed

Reason 1 'Jesus has power over nature', which is developed by 'therefore he could walk on sea'

Reason 2 Jesus was the Son of God and through God anything is possible.

3 marks

(d)(ii) Two reasons given

Reason 1 The disciples of Jesus could have been dreaming.

Reason 2 The morning mist may have made the disciples interpret what they saw.

2 marks

To gain full marks this answer needed another reason, such as that walking on water is scientifically impossible.

Total = 16 marks

In the (c) questions, if you only tell the story on which that question is based you will only achieve Level 1 - 2 marks.

Reasons must always be given to take your answer further.

Paper Summary

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

- There is a choice of two questions per section; each of these has four sub-questions. Candidates may either attempt the sub-questions in the top question (odd-numbered) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even-numbered). Candidates who choose sub-questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all of their responses and therefore are at a clear disadvantage
- Candidates are asked to indicate which question they have answered by putting a cross in a box at the top of the paper – not to cross out the question they are not doing. Some candidates did not put a cross in the box: they should be reminded to do this as part of examination preparation
- The amount of lines given on the examination paper is more than adequate for candidates to achieve maximum marks. There is no need for candidates to write more than this. If candidates write more than can be inserted into the allocated lineage, then they are using up too much time on that particular question. Almost all of the candidates who used extra paper had already achieved maximum marks on that question. Any candidate who needs extra space can use the space allocated to other questions, as long as they indicate clearly on their paper that this is what they have done
- Candidates produced some very interesting answers to the questions posed. This indicated that they and their teachers had not only studied the topic but also, importantly, had linked them to their everyday life and that reflected in the society around them
- Maximum marks on the part (a) questions are easily gained by learning the Edexcel glossary definitions
- Only the candidate's point of view is credited in part (b) questions. The easiest way to gain full marks is for candidates to concentrate on stating their opinion and writing two separate reasons for it, each in a distinct paragraph, and then to develop each of the reasons with an example or a quote
- Candidates can gain the higher mark within the level on part (c) questions by writing coherently. Part (c) questions test AO1 and so will either ask for candidates to 'Explain why' or to 'Explain how'
- Many of the part (d) questions this year produced interesting answers. However, candidates should ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in part (d)(i) and then state reasons why someone might hold a different view in part (d)(ii), rather than mixing the two halves. At least one of the reasons given in either (d)(i) or (d)(ii) must be explicitly Christian (which can be a quote from Mark's gospel or a reference to something in it) to go beyond 3 marks.

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>

Ofqual



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Welsh Assembly Government



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