

Examiners' Report

June 2016

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS16 01

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Introduction

This specification is now well established, this being the seventh year in which it has been examined. It will be examined for the last time next year (2017) after which there will be a new specification.

The new specification may be accessed on Edexcel Gateway.

Centres should, by now, be familiar with the layout and weighting of the paper.

Unit 16 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 RS 'suite' of papers which is a textually-based paper.

Note: SPaG – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

Question 1 (a)(b)(c)(d)

This question was twice as popular as Question (Q)2. It was quite well answered.

1a Most students knew what was meant by the Twelve, however some only gained one mark because they failed to include the idea that they were 'chosen' by Jesus from among all his disciples.

1b Some very good reasons were given (and developed) in answer to this question. Ideas included such things as: it was unrealistic for the rich young man to give away everything. On the other side, students argued that it was a small price to pay for entry to the Kingdom of Heaven.

1c Again, there were some good answers here. Many students argued that it is encouraging to Christians today that Peter (who later became the first pope) was not perfect – so there is hope for all Christians.

1d There were some thoughtful answers here. Many students argued that, despite their failings, the disciples were good role models for today.

Below are two examples. One is an answer that lost several marks and one is a full mark answer, with some comments that show where it gained the marks.

(a) What is meant by the twelve is a term for the chosen twelve Jesus picked to be disciples.

(b) Yes I do think he asked too much as the man had made an honest living to get his riches, he shouldn't have to give them away to earn a place in heaven.

I don't think he asked too much as the young man wouldn't need his riches in heaven therefore he could give them to those of more need!

(c) Peter's Denial of Jesus might help Christians today as it shows that even the closest people to Jesus doubt him sometimes but don't stop believing.

Peter's Denial also shows that Jesus knows what will happen for you, he predicted Peter to deny him 3 times which happened, this may help some to believe Jesus and God have a plan for all of us.

Furthermore it shows that as a Christian you can be afraid to admit it sometimes to others, if Peter who was part of the chosen twelve did it, so can you.

Finally it may help Christians as it shows that some people's faiths are not real, some may not believe enough to declare it, this helps Christians to help input faith into others.

(d) (i) Yes I agree they're the best role models because they threw everything away to travel without pay just to change the world for the better.

As well as spreading the word of God to those who needed a faith to rely on, they helped those less fortunate than themselves.

Finally, they were always by Jesus' side, they would never let him be alone showing care and love.

(ii)

Others may disagree because in the Garden of Gethsemane the disciples fail Jesus three times and fall asleep.

Also Peter denied knowing Jesus three times to a crowd which doesn't set a good example to new followers.

Final point is that Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus leading to his crucifixion, not a good role model to people who wish to follow Christianity.



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Examiner Comments

1a This is a correct definition, although phrased differently from the mark scheme = 2 marks

1b Two correct reasons given and developed = 4 marks.

Reason 1: he had made an honest living

Development: he should not have to give them away to enter heaven

Reason 2: he would not need his riches in heaven

Development: therefore, that he could give them to those in need

1c Level 4 = 8 marks

Three correct ways are given, with one developed. It is answered coherently, so achieves the higher mark for Level 4

Way 1: even those closest to Jesus doubt him sometimes

Way 2: Jesus knows what will happen to you

Development: he predicted Peter would deny him

Way 3: a Christian can be afraid

Full marks are reached at this point

1d (i) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: they threw everything away

Reason 2: they helped those less fortunate than themselves

Reason 3: they were always by Jesus' side

1d(ii) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: fell asleep in the Garden

Reason 2: Peter denied Jesus

Reason 3: Judas betrayed Jesus

SPaG High performance: 4 marks

24 marks



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Examiner Tip

On a b) question, the two reasons may be from opposite sides of the argument (as in this example) as long as they are both the candidate's own views.

- (a) The twelve is a group of men which followed Jesus and went to share the good news.
- (b) No because Jesus wanted him to help all the people who needed his help, this was so the man could experience what Jesus does when he helps those who are ~~in~~ in need of his help. However Jesus could have been doing it so the man could experience how hard life is for those who have financial problems, or economic issues which are causing them to have to struggle through life.
- (c) The story of Peter's denial could help Christians today as it would lead to them seeing how Jesus is all knowing. This is shown when Jesus tells the twelve ~~is~~ someone would deny him but they did not believe him, this

would help Christians today as it would show them that before you know it would happen Jesus already know what your about to do. However, this would help Christians as it teaches them that when you make a mistake Jesus will be there to help you through and to ~~forgive~~ forgive you even when you believe he won't.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement as i believe that the disciples where the people who struggled the most as they had to give so much up so they could follow Jesus. Another reason I agree with this statement is because it teaches them that God & Jesus would love you for being your-self, so you don't have to change who you are because you may think that they would hate you.

(ii) Someone may disagree with this statement as they believe

that Jesus was the best
role model as he cured
and saved people where
as the disciples only went
around telling every one
that would listen about
the 'good news' about God
and his kingdom above this
lead to people believing in
God and Jesus. even when
it seemed hard to do so.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

1a A partially correct definition, as shown in the mark scheme.
There is no indication of Jesus 'choosing' them. 1 mark

1b Two correct reasons given with one developed = 3 marks.

Reason 1: Jesus wanted him to help those who needed his help

Development: the man could experience what Jesus does when he helps those in need

Reason 2: the man could experience how hard life is for those who have financial problems

1c Level 3 = 6 marks

Two correct ways, with one fully developed and answered coherently

Way 1: help them to know Jesus is all knowing

Development: Jesus tells the twelve someone would deny him

Way 2: Jesus will be there to forgive you

The middle section of the answer is repetition of Jesus being all-knowing and so cannot be credited

1d (i) One correct reasons = 1 mark

Reason 1: they were the people who struggled the most as they gave up so much. The rest of the response does not really answer the question.

1d(ii) One correct reason that is developed = 2 marks

Reason 1: Jesus was the best role model

Development: because he cured and saved people

SPaG Intermediate performance = 3 marks

16 marks

Question 2 (a)(b)(c)(d)

This question was answered by fewer students than Q1.

Again, it was answered quite well.

2a Many students had learnt the glossary definition and so were able to gain full marks but there were quite a few students who were unable to give a fully correct answer.

2b There were some good answers with developed, valid, reasons given - mainly centring around the idea that life today is very different from the way it was in Jesus' day.

2c Most students were able to relate the different types of soil to problems of discipleship. Some included the 'good soil' but that, of course, could not be credited since it is a success of discipleship, rather than a problem! Some students did refer to the fact that many people did not understand the parable, and this itself was a problem.

2d Answers were fairly evenly split between those students who believe there are evil spirits and those who do not. Some students lost marks because they interpreted the question as saying 'there is no such thing as evil' which, of course does, not answer the question.

Below is an example of an almost full-mark answer, with comments showing where the marks were awarded.

(a) putting other people's needs before your own

(b) I do not think it is possible to follow Jesus today in the way the disciples did because people have more responsibilities today. For example people have ~~wives and children~~ wives/husbands and children who depend on that person's income to live. They cannot drop everything to follow Jesus as it would have consequences for their loved ones.

Also our society today is ^{very} ~~much~~ different from back then. We are competitive with each other (as a result of capitalism) and more private. This means it would be difficult to leave your belongings when following in Jesus.

and trust in other people's hospitality as they are less likely to provide.

(c) The parable of the Sower shows the problems of discipleship in that it will be difficult to spread the message of God. In the story most of the seeds that fall on

the ground. The thorns represent the pressures of everyday life, the ~~seeds~~ rocks represent people who start off enthusiastic but lose interest and the seeds on the path represent people who ignore it (the seed being the word of God). All this shows it is likely that one will not always be successful in spreading the teachings of Christianity as a disciple.

The problems of discipleship are also shown through this story because at first the disciples did not understand it. This is despite the fact that they were hearing it from Jesus himself who they had spent time with. ~~Thus~~ Therefore ~~at~~ this failure of understanding shows how all humans are naturally flawed in that nobody is perfect. ~~It is inevitable that many will fail.~~ This explains the problem of discipleship which is that it is inevitable that many will fail at certain points - shown later when the disciples fell asleep when they were meant to keep watch.

(d) (i) I do not believe that there are evil spirits because there is no evidence of them today. These days things require proof and there is none that evil spirits exist. The Bible was written in a time when people were very superstitious and believed in things like spirits because there was no other explanation for them. Also I think they are just used to represent mental disorders and illnesses. For example the boy who Jesus cast spirits out of ~~was~~ most likely had epilepsy.

(ii) However some might disagree because they believe that everything in the Bible is true. Some Christians have ~~some~~ a lot of faith in God and believe the Bible is the word of God and that things that happen in it (such as the presence of evil spirits) do not need an explanation and are true.

Also just because we have no direct evidence of evil spirits, it does not mean they don't exist. The idea of us knowing everything in what we call reality is flawed and ~~what~~ ~~some~~ we can never truly determine what does and doesn't exist.



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Examiner Comments

2a This is a correct definition = 2 marks

2b 2 correct reasons given with one developed, therefore 3 marks

Reason 1: people have more responsibilities today

Reason 2: society is very different from back then

Development: we are competitive with each other

The development of Reason 1 cannot be accepted, because they had families for which they had to provide, in those days, as well.

2c Level 4 = 8 marks

4 correct ways are answered coherently so this response gains the higher of the two marks for Level 4

Way 1: it will be difficult to spread the message of God

Way 2: people start off enthusiastic but lose interest

Way 3: the seeds on the path represent people who will ignore it (the word)

Way 4: the disciples did not understand it

2d(i) 3 correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: there is no evidence of them

Reason 2: the Bible was written when people were very superstitious

Reason 3: they are just used to represent mental disorders

2d(ii) 2 correct reasons with one developed = 3 marks

Reason 1: some believe everything in the Bible

Development: they believe the Bible is the word of God

Reason 2: because we have no direct evidence does not mean they do not exist

SPaG High performance = 4 marks

23 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.

Question 3 (a)

Many students had learnt the correct definition of 'the Temple' and gained the full two marks. Many others did not show the difference between the Temple and other places of worship, thus only gaining one mark. The most obvious distinguishing feature is that the Temple was the place where sacrifices were offered.

Below are two examples of responses. One is an incorrect answer and the other is fully correct.

(a) The temple was a place were Jesus goin
went to study and he learn how to pray.



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No correct knowledge is given.

This answer is too vague. Jesus is more likely to have studied and learned to pray in the synagogue.

0 marks

(a) The Temple is the building in Jerusalem where
sacrifices were made.



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Examiner Comments

This is a correct definition.

2 marks

Question 3 (b)(c)(d)

This question was generally answered well, with students being able to recognise the incidents to which the questions referred.

3b Students gave a variety of valid responses to this question - but mainly centring around the idea of Jesus as messiah and the Old Testament prophecy from Zechariah about the coming of messiah. Several students also pointed to him riding a donkey as a symbol of humility. Some students also suggested that Jesus was being deliberately provocative by entering Jerusalem in this way.

3c Most students knew the story of the paralysed man who was lowered through the roof and were able to write about what happened. Many were also able to show the significance of the story for Christians today. The themes identified mainly included the:

- forgiveness of sins
- miraculous healing
- faith of the man's friends.

3d The majority of students attempting this question knew the account of the discussion about Caesar and taxes. They were able to apply it to today and explain why it is or is not significant. The main arguments centred around the fact that we still have taxes today that have to be paid, but also that we need to give due regard to our duty to God. Many students, in equal numbers, used this incident to argue that Jesus was saying that religion and politics should not be mixed, or that they should be mixed!

Below are two answers: one that did not gain full marks, and one that did, with comments to show where marks were given.

(b) I think Jesus was right to enter Jerusalem the way he did on Palm Sunday as he entered on a colt, a type of sacrifice, which shows he too would be an ultimate sacrifice and foreshadow the passion.

Also I believe he had to enter this way in order to cause conflict with Jewish authorities so that they would eventually order his death and the fulfilment of the passion.

(c) The healing of the paralysed man is significant for Christians today as when Jesus healed the man he said 'your sins are ~~now~~ forgiven' showing us that Jesus can forgive sins and mean he is the 'son of God'.

Also the way he was lowered through the roof shows us that the path to Jesus / God is not always easy, but the rewards are ~~more~~ worth it.

I believe that if Jesus hadn't healed the man in front of all these people in the way he had, and upset the authorities then his passion may not have been fulfilled and so the story is significant for Christians today as it was inevitable for him to have healed the man in order for our sins to be forgiven.

(d) (i) I agree that Jesus' answer to Caesar and ~~tax~~ taxes is still significant today as it tells us we should pay our taxes and obey law, but also give to God what belongs to or is owed to him. Also it shows us that religion and politics can work in harmony and it

show us that religion should stand up for ~~unsubscribed~~ political rights which ~~they~~ believes should be voiced.

(ii) on the other hand some may ~~be~~ disagree as we ~~no longer~~ ^{don't} have to give corban in certain christian denominations eg church of england and catholics, therefore it no longer applies as we don't owe to God in the same way as men ~~just~~ spoke of ceasar and taxes.



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3b 1 correct reason, developed = 2 marks

Reason 1 (second paragraph): had to enter this way in order to cause conflict

Development: so the authorities would order his death and cause the passion

No marks are given for the first paragraph – a donkey is not a sacrificial animal.

3c Level 3 = 6 marks

2 correct reasons, with one developed, and answered coherently

Reason 1: your sins are forgiven

Development: showing he is the Son of God

Reason 2: if he had not upset the authorities then his passion may not have been fulfilled

Giving another reason (for example talking about the faith of the friends), or developing the second reason, would have led to this answer being moved up to Level 4 and gaining 8 marks.

3d(i) 3 correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: it tells us we should pay our taxes

Reason 2: also give to God what is his

Reason 3: religion should stand up for political rights

3d(ii) 0 correct reason = 0 mark

There was some confusion in this response between corban and tithing, which are unconnected with this incident.

11 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

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 may lose many marks.

(b) I do think that Jesus was right to enter Jerusalem in the way he did on Palm Sunday. I think this because Jesus was following the prophecy of the Messiah, showing that he was the Messiah.

on the other hand, Jesus knew that claiming to be the Messiah would anger the teachers of the Law and religious leaders. Jesus was wrong to enter Jerusalem in the way he did because he knew the consequences and that it would be seen as blasphemy.

(c) The healing of the paralysed man is significant for Christians today. This is because ~~the~~ this shows Jesus as the Son of God as Jesus had power over sickness, this affirms Christians' beliefs.

The healing of the paralysed man also shows Jesus as the Son of Man. This is because Jesus was compassionate enough to heal the man. This strengthens Christian beliefs and

Shows that they should be compassionate

The healing of the paralysed man also gives hope to Christians. This is because it makes them believe that they could be healed also

In the story of the healing of the paralysed man, Jesus forgave the man's sins. This shows Christians today that their sins can also be forgiven and that they can repent.

- (d) (i) I agree with this because the government nowadays still ~~has~~ requests taxes just like Caesar did at the time of Jesus. Jesus' teaching sets out an example for Christians today teaching them how to obey God and the government. ~~This is a~~ A better reason for the significance is that Jesus' answer teaches Christians today to obey government laws, this allows Christians today to follow God properly as they will ~~not~~ be in prison.

(ii) On the other hand, some people may disagree with me because society has changed since the time of Jesus. Nowadays more people are atheists, this means that teaching about God is not relevant to them. Most people at the time of Jesus opposed the Roman government, nowadays not many people oppose the government; neither do they oppose it to the same extent.



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3b Two correct reasons, developed, therefore 4 marks

Reason 1: Jesus was following the prophecy of the messiah

Development: showing he was the messiah

Reason 2: Jesus knew that claiming to be the messiah would anger the teachers of the law

Development: it could be seen as blasphemy

3c Level 4 = 8 marks

2 correct reasons developed, answered coherently

Reason 1: this shows Jesus as the Son of God

Development: Jesus had power over sickness

Reason 2: it shows Jesus as the son of man

Development: he was compassionate enough to heal the man

Maximum marks have been reached at this point

3d(i) 3 correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: the government still requests taxes

Reason 2: teaches about how to obey God

Reason 3: teaches Christians to obey the government

3d(ii) 1 correct reason fully developed = 3 marks

Reason 1: society has changed

Development 1: many more are atheists so the teaching of God is not relevant

Development 2: many in Jesus' day opposed the Roman government – not the same today

18 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

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

Question 4 (a)

Most students knew that the Sadducees were a religious group, but quite often they did not give enough detail to distinguish the Sadducees from other religious groups (eg the Pharisees), and so only gained one mark instead of the two available.

Below are two examples – one of a partially correct answer and one of a fully correct answer.

(a) The Sadducees were the Jewish people who were in power during Jesus's time.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

There is a partially correct definition.

There was not sufficient detail to separate the Sadducees from other groups, who were also powerful.

1 mark

(a) a group of priests who controlled the temple and collaborated with the Roman.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Correct definition

2 marks

Question 4 (b)(c)(d)

4b This was generally quite well known and most students were able to give one or two reasons for their belief.

4c Many students found this question difficult. The 'plot to kill Jesus' is a specific point in the specification. It covers chapter 14 verses 1–2 (the authorities were looking for some way to arrest Jesus; verses 10–11 (the offer by Judas to betray Jesus) and verses 17–21 (the revelation at the Last Supper by Jesus that one of them would betray him). Examiners did give credit to those students who referred to events that had a direct bearing on the authorities deciding they needed to get rid of Jesus (eg the cleansing of the temple; the 'difficult' questions in the Temple).

4d Again, there were many thoughtful comments on this - many students citing examples such as how times have changed:

- we are now living in a multi-faith society
- people need to work on Sunday for financial reasons.

Below are two examples – one which did not gain many marks and one a full mark answer.

(b) I think that Jesus was right to cleanse the temple as it was his own father's home. Also it was being used in the wrong way by the Sadducees and this needed to be corrected.

(c) The plot to kill Jesus was significant as it fulfils the prophecy. Jesus forgave those who hurt him. It showed that there was temptation of money and wealth instead of following Jesus. When Jesus died Judas committed suicide as he knew that what he had done was wrong. Also this story shows that Jesus didn't believe in violence, he fixed the soldiers' ear, and also questioned why they came with fire and weapons when Jesus only prayed.

(d) (i) I think that keeping the Sabbath holy is out of date as: Some people have to work on the Sabbath to help their families, the Sabbath represents the 7th day of the creation story, which some people today do not believe in, also on the Sabbath now, in a materialistic world it is hard to decide what is work and what is not, it is better to help someone on the Sabbath than do nothing.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me as the Sabbath is an ~~ancient~~ ancient tradition. We should be respectful of this and stick with it, and anything except prayer or worship is work.

4b Two correct reasons, therefore 2 marks

Reason 1: it was his own father's home

Reason 2: it was being used in the wrong way and needed to be corrected

Both these reasons suffered from a lack of development. It

needs more than only the basic reasons in order to gain full marks.

4c Level 1 = 2 marks

1 correct reason, answered coherently

Reason 1: it fulfils the prophecy

The rest of the answer goes beyond the plot into the arrest itself.

4d(i) 3 correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: some people have to work on the Sabbath

Reason 2: it represents the seventh day of the creation story, which some people do not believe

Reason 3: it is hard to decide what is work and what is not

4d(ii) 1 correct reason = 1 mark

Reason 1: it is an ancient tradition, which we should show respect for

The candidate could have gained more marks by giving further reasons such as:

'It is a command of God'

'It is good for everyone to have a rest from work.'

8 marks

(b) Yes, They were misusing the Temple by selling goods and making a ~~phrope~~ profit off worshippers which was very ~~tes~~ disrespectful in such a holy place. Also Jesus said "my temple is a house of worship for all nations"; the selling was happening on the level of the gentiles ~~disrupting~~ disrupting their worship which is not fair. So Jesus was right to cleanse the Temple.

(c) The plot to kill Jesus fulfilled many old testament ~~phrophetes~~ prophecies. "he ~~is~~ the son of ^{god} man would be handed over into the hands of man"

~~Secondly, it was the first time Jesus spoke about his~~

Secondly, it showed how unwanted Jesus was in the community.

thirdly, it was all part of gods plan for salvation.

Lastly, The Jewish leaders were jealous of Jesus' popularity ~~is~~ with the crowd and were afraid that he would turn the crowd against them and cause a ~~riot~~ riot.

(d) (i) I agree with this statement as many people have full time, round the clock jobs ~~these~~ ~~now~~ days so keeping the sabbath holy is very hard. Also there are many faiths present today ~~now~~ and each one may have a different day Sabbath day. So if the sabbath was granted to one religious group others will also want it meaning health services may be run down due to missing staff members because it's their Sabbath day*. Lastly the time of Jesus was 2000 years ago things have progressed and changed from how they used to be. *which could lead to total tragedies.

(ii) Although others may disagree with me because the sabbath is one day; ~~as~~ ~~and~~ ~~devout~~ Christians should be able to avail one day of the schedule for God. Also the times may have changed but principles and the message can still remain the same. ~~at~~ Lastly in the time of Jesus people who had nothing even managed to keep the Sabbath day holy so why can't our generation which is by far more advanced and stable.



4b Two correct reasons, developed = 4 marks

Reason 1: they were misusing the temple by selling goods

Development: this was disrespectful in a holy place

Reason 2: the selling was disrupting the gentiles' worship

Development: (before the reason) my temple is a house of worship for all nations

4c Level 4 = 8 marks

Three correct reasons, with one developed, answered coherently

Reason 1: the plot to kill Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies

Development: the (mis)quote following it – which is nearly correct

Reason 2: it was part of God's plan for salvation

Reason 3: the religious leaders were jealous of Jesus' popularity

4d(i) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: many people have full-time round-the-clock jobs

Reason 2: there are many different faiths with different Sabbaths

Reason 3: this could lead to health services being run down because of missing staff

4d(ii) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: Christians should be able to avail one day of the schedule for God

Reason 2: times may have changed but the message and principles stay the same

Reason 3: people in Jesus' day, who had nothing, managed to keep the Sabbath so why cannot we?

18 marks

Question 5 (a)

The great majority of students knew who Judas Iscariot was, and so managed to achieve full marks for this question.

(a) *Gov Judas iscarior was*
.....
..... *a traitor of Jesus and he told the*
.....
..... *Saducees where Jesus was.*



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Correct definition, although phrased differently from the mark scheme.

2 marks

Question 5 (b)(c)(d)

Section 3 (Q5 and Q6) tends to be the section that is answered best and this year was no exception.

5b Most students were familiar with the trial of Jesus before Pilate and of Pilate giving in to the crowd. Students were able, therefore, to give reasons in answer to this question. There were a few students who confused the trial before Pilate with that before the High Priest.

5c This was generally well answered, with a wide range of valid reasons given, to explain why it is important for Christians today.

5d Again, there was some thoughtful discussion. However, some students ventured 'outside' the Garden of Gethsemane and gave invalid reasons from other parts of Jesus' life, which could not be credited.

Below are two examples – one of a weaker answer and one of an almost full mark answer, with some comments.

(b) I do think Pilate gave in too easily because he knew that Jesus was innocent but he still and he couldn't stop Jesus from being crucified. Pilate didn't want to make the crowd angry at him so he let Jesus suffer and die. He could've told the crowd why Jesus was innocent but wouldn't listen so he gave in.

(c) The crucifixion of Jesus is important for Christians today because Jesus had nails through his skin so he held onto

the cross and he suffered so much. Most importantly, the ~~crucifixion~~ crucifixion is remembered mostly because Jesus died on the cross for his people, so their sins could be washed away. The crucifixion is also important because he suffered so much for his people.

(d) (i) I do agree because his disciples kept falling asleep. This showed that they ~~couldn't~~ couldn't follow Jesus' instructions. If they really want to be a good disciple, they'd try their hardest even working together, so they won't fall asleep and not make Jesus mad at them.

(ii) Some Christians could disagree because the disciples were very tired, so it's not their fault if they fell asleep because the disciples can't help it.

If ~~were~~ we were sleepy or tired,
and someone asked us to stay up.
Most likely we'll sleep.
Disciples are humans just like
us, so they'll do the same
thing any human would do.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

5b Two correct reasons, developed = 4 marks

Reason 1: he knew that Jesus was innocent

Development: he could have stopped Jesus from being crucified

Reason 2: he did not want to make the crowd angry at him

Development: so he let Jesus suffer and die

5c Level 2 = 4 marks

2 correct reasons. answered coherently

Reason 1: Jesus died on the cross for his people

Development: so their sins would be washed away

5d(i) 1 correct reason = 1 mark

Reason 1: the disciples kept falling asleep and could not follow instructions

5d(ii) 1 correct reason = 1 marks

Reason 1: they were very tired, so it was not their fault

10 marks

(b) Yes I think Pilate gave in too easily. Barabur was a convicted criminal who had committed lots of crimes so Pilate knew no one would want him released. He should have realised the the teachers of the law and Sanhedrin had stirred up the crowd to make them say Barabur.

He also gave in too easily because despite him knowing Jesus was an innocent man, Pilate didn't try convince the crowd to free Jesus. He could have simply read out the 'crimes' of Jesus compared to Barabur's crimes and as a leader he should have given Jesus a fair trial. But he didn't because he wanted it to be over quickly.

(c) The crucifixion is important because Jesus replaced the daily sacrifices of animals that Jews would make to repent their sins. The crucifixion prevents the huge loss of life through animal sacrifices and this is because Jesus was compassionate.

The crucifixion is important because it means Jesus fulfills the reported prophecies made in the old testament. He had to suffer and die to fulfill the messianic prophecy about the suffering servant and this confirms his identity.

The crucifixion is important to Christians today and forever because Jesus reconciled humanity with God. There was a barrier between us from the start of time because of Adam and Eve's original sin. Since then we haven't been as close to God - there was a gap. Jesus' sacrifice removed all our sins and bridged the gap between us and God.

It's important today because Jesus redeemed our relationship with God. When he died, the cloth curtain separating ~~Christians~~^{Jesus} from the room dedicated to God in the temple was ripped which meant we could reach God again. This is still true for Christians today.

garden of gethsemane disciples not show faith

(d) (i) I agree because the disciples fell asleep and disobeyed their promise to Jesus which shows they didn't really trust him or believe he needed their help. If they had faith and trusted him entirely they would've stayed awake. I also agree because just before the garden of gethsemane, Jesus revealed that one of them would betray him. Peter said 'Surely not?' which shows disbelief and a lack of faith in what Jesus says. I also think they didn't show faith because if they

truly believed he was — the Son of God and the Messiah, they would have done anything they could to protect him. Instead they fell asleep, ~~showing~~ which suggests they didn't believe in his identity.

(iii) Someone may think the opposite, and think that by falling asleep they showed lots of faith in him and in his abilities to protect himself, because they thought he didn't need their help. Someone may disagree and think they did show faith by coming and sticking with him even though he just insulted them by saying one of them would betray him. Jesus called them bad friends yet they still followed him, so they had faith. Someone may also say that they had faith because they respected him. Jesus asked to be able to pray alone, and they had faith and respect for him because they did so.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

5b Two correct reasons, developed = 4 marks

Reason 1: Pilate knew no-one would want Barabbas released

Development: he should have realised they had stirred up the crowd to get Barabbas released

Reason 2: He did not try to convince the crowd to release Jesus

Development: he could have simply read out the crimes of Jesus, compared with those of Barabbas

5c Level 4 = 8 marks

Three correct reasons, with one developed, answered coherently

Reason 1: Jesus replaced the daily sacrifices that the Jews made

Reason 2: Jesus fulfils the prophecies of the Old Testament

Development: the reference to the prophecy of the 'Suffering Servant'

Reason 3: Jesus reconciled humanity with God

Full marks have been reached at this point.

5d(i) Two correct reasons, with one developed = 3 marks

Reason 1: They disobeyed their promise to Jesus

Development: if they had faith, they would have stayed awake

Reason 2: if they had faith, they would have done anything to protect Jesus

References to Peter's denial cannot be credited because this did not take place in the Garden.

5d(ii) Two correct reason = 2 marks

Reason 1: they had faith in his ability to protect himself

Reason 2: they did show faith by coming and "sticking with him"

Another reason here would have given the candidate full marks for this answer.

17 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

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

Question 6 (a)

Most students knew that crucifixion was a method of execution. In order to gain full marks, they needed to show that the person was put to death on a cross, to distinguish it from any other form of execution.

Two examples are given below – one a partially correct answer and one a fully correct answer.

(a) The Crucifixion was the death of Jesus which sealed the Covenant between man and God. Jesus was the sacrificial lamb.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Partially correct definition, as shown in the mark scheme.

The question is 'what is crucifixion' not 'what is **the** crucifixion.'

Also there is no indication that the person crucified is on a cross.

1 mark

(a) is the way Jesus died on the cross.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

6a Correct definition

This is the glossary definition.

2 marks

Question 6 (b)(c)(d)

As with Q5, this question, again, was generally well done.

6b Many students provided good, developed answers, often centring around the fact of the resurrection being the basis of the Christian faith, and also that it gives hope for life after death.

6c This aspect of the trial had been learned well, with the fact of the trial having been held at night being the major point made. There were a few students who confused this trial with the one held before Pontius Pilate.

6d Most students were aware of what the Last Supper was. Many of those who agreed with the statement that it is not important for Christians, majored on the fact that it was celebrating a Jewish festival and therefore was not important to Christians. The majority of those who disagreed with the statement, wrote about it being the origin of the Eucharist.

Below are two examples – one a weak answer and the other an almost fully correct answer.

(b) I agree. firstly for christians ~~firstly~~ the resurrection of Jesus shows that there's a Heaven, therefore if we follow the word of God we can also make it to heaven. Secondly the resurrection shows that ~~that~~ Jesus wasn't defeated ~~by the Jews~~ therefore God is powerful and can do all things.

(c) To christians the trial of Jesus was unfair because Jesus hadn't committed any crimes and was convicted wrongly. Secondly the high priest left it all to the crowd to

decide, therefore they had no reason or evidence against Jesus.

Also Jesus was only doing the work of God and spreading the word, therefore he wasn't a criminal and didn't deserve to be crucified. Lastly Jesus healed the sick and gave to the poor, therefore he was a good man and he deserved to be appreciated not face ~~an~~ ^{an} unfair trial.

(d) (i) I Disagree.

As a christian I believe that Jesus made most of his prophecies at the last supper, therefore Jesus is seen as omniscient today. Also the last supper is the last time that Jesus and all his disciples sit together and have a meal in unity this is seen as the most important meal today. Some of the last supper is ~~re-enacted~~ ^{re-enacted} by catholics today.

(ii) Others may disagree.

firstly the last supper isn't really seen as important, because it's just Jesus and his disciples having a meal ~~to~~ together for the last time. Also ~~the~~ there was no miracles performed which doesn't make the event special for Christians of today.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

6b Two correct reasons, with one developed = 3 marks

Reason 1: the resurrection shows that there is a heaven

Reason 2: the resurrection shows that Jesus was not defeated

Development: therefore, God is powerful and can do all things

6c Level 1 = 2 marks

One correct reason, answered coherently

Reason 1: Jesus had not committed any crimes

The rest does not deal with the unfairness of the trial and is partly confused with the trial by Pilate

6d(i) Two correct reasons, with one developed = 3 marks

Reason 1: Jesus (made most of his) prophecies at the Last Supper

Developed: seen as omniscient today

Reason 2: some of the Last Supper is re-enacted by Catholics today

6d(ii) Two correct reasons = 2 marks

Reason 1: just Jesus and his disciples having a meal

Reason 2: there were no miracles performed, which does not make the event special

10 marks

(b) Yes, firstly the resurrection of Jesus was ~~the~~ what kick-started the christian church, without the resurrection Jesus' death would have been meaningless. Secondly, it's recorded in every Gospel in the bible so therefore Christians should believe in that it happened. Also if we didn't believe in the resurrection Jesus' death would be meaningless.

(c) The trial before the high priest was extremely unfair, firstly, it was held at night, which was against sanhedrin law, this meant that no one could see the trial and how unfair it was. Secondly, ~~it broke many other sanhedrin laws such as not letting 24~~

Secondly, they treated Jesus very unfairly, they abused him, spat at him. Which abused the fair treatment of defendants. They mocked him as well.

Thirdly, they had false witnesses that testified against Jesus accusing him of blasphemy and other crimes.

This is unfair as these people were making up lies about him and he couldn't defend himself.

Finally, they didn't allow 24 hours to pass after the ~~trial~~ arrest which broke another sanhedrin law. This did not allow Jesus to have time to prepare what he would say.

(d) (i) I disagree I think the last supper is important for Christians today. Firstly, it was when Jesus predicted he would be betrayed, this shows Jesus had divine powers. Secondly, it links Passover to the last supper and the sealing of the new Covenant, when the old Covenant was sealed the sacrificed a lamb, the sacrifice of Jesus would seal the new covenant. Finally, the last supper is what started the Eucharist we celebrate in church today. It was the start of one of the most important beliefs in Catholicism, transubstantiation, that bread becomes the body of Christ and the wine becomes the blood.

(ii) On the other hand, some may see it as just another Passover meal, that it was just the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples. Secondly, there are many more important events such as his death and resurrection that the last supper has less significance. Finally, some Christians do not believe in transubstantiation but in consubstantiation which is that the bread and wine are a spiritual representation but not a literal and so therefore the last supper isn't as relevant.



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Examiner Comments

6b Two correct reasons, both developed = 4 marks

Reason 1: "kick-started" the Christian Church

Development: without it Jesus' death would be meaningless

Reason 2: it is recorded in every gospel

Development: so Christians should believe that it happened

6c Level 4 = 8 marks

Three correct reasons, with one developed, answered coherently

Reason 1: it was held at night

Development: this was against Sanhedrin law

Reason 2: they abused Jesus

Reason 3: they had false witnesses

6d(i) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: it is when Jesus predicted he would be betrayed

Reason 2: it links Passover to the Last Supper and the sealing of the new covenant

Reason 3: followed by the explanation of the sealing of the covenants

6d(ii) Two correct reasons = 2 marks

Reason 1: just another Passover meal

Reason 2: many more important events, such as the death and resurrection

17 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

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

Question 7 (a)

Most students knew who Moses was but sometimes did not give enough detail to separate him from other, similar, prophets from the Old Testament and so only gained one mark.

Below are two answers – both partially correct, with comments showing why they are only partially correct.

Write your answer here:

(a) The man who wrote the 10 commandments



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Examiner Comments

Partially correct definition

The student has made the link with the Ten Commandments, although is inaccurate in saying that Moses wrote them.

1 mark

(a) ~~Confer with Moses~~ Moses is a prophet whom came to Jesus during his transfiguration.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is a partially correct definition, as shown in the mark scheme.

To achieve both marks, students need to show that Moses appeared with Elijah, in order to distinguish him from Elijah.

1 mark

Question 7 (b)(c)(d)

Students were obviously familiar with the three incidents mentioned in this question, although particularly in (d) were sometimes less able to apply that knowledge to the way the questions were asked.

Two examples are given below – one weaker answer and another of an almost fully correct answer.

(b) Yes, the feeding of the five thousand was possible because Jesus is omnipotent and can do / perform whatever he wants as he is powerful enough to do so. ~~He~~ We know he can because he has performed many miracles in the bibles which shows it isn't just luck.

Moreover, Jesus performs these things called nature miracles where he shows his power of nature. He does this in this miracle and also walking on water which shows his power over nature.

(c) The raising of Jairus' daughter shows us that Jesus is omnipotent and can perform whatever miracles he wants to. It shows us that if you believe in Jesus then anything is possible. It shows us that Jesus can forgive sinners and sins. He can fight off evil spirits, ^{cure} ~~and~~ the sick. It shows us that Jesus has power over evil ~~spirits~~ which means he is omnipotent. It proves to us that

the miracles Jesus performed' are all real as he performs different miracles many times showing it isn't luck and he is omnipotent.

(d) (i) Yes, I agree with this because Jesus' baptism was different to everyone else's. He was baptised in a lake by John the baptised. This shows that he is special. IN REFERENCE TO CHRISTIANITY everyone else's baptism is in a church and performed by a priest. This shows Jesus is different and special.

(ii) Someone who would disagree is a atheist because they don't believe in God or anything to do with him. So this would mean that they don't believe in baptism. They would say that it is all made up and isn't real so that is why they don't believe in it.



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Examiner Comments

7b Two correct reasons, developed = 4 marks

Reason 1: Jesus is omnipotent

The development: he can perform whatever he wants

Reason 2: Jesus performs nature miracles and does so in this miracle

Development: the example given of walking on water

7c Level 2 = 4 marks

One correct description, which is developed, and answered coherently

Description 1: Jesus is omnipotent

Development: that he can perform whatever miracles he wants to

7d(i) Opinion only, with no correct reasons, therefore 0 marks

The student does understand that being baptised in a lake (river) was the way John baptised everyone.

7d(ii) One correct reason = 1 mark

Reason 1: An atheist does not believe in God or anything to do with him, so would not believe in baptism

9 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

Remember that (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.

Both reasons must be your own point of view – not those of someone else.

(b) Yes I think that the feeding of the Five thousand was possible because in the Bible it says "with God, all things are possible. Also God created us so he must be able to perform miracles

Also Jesus performed many other miracles like the 'Healing of Jairus' daughter' and 'Walking on water' which proves that he is God so with him anything is possible.

(c) Firstly it shows that Jesus was kind and ~~as~~ as women those days were overlooked. It shows that Jesus was caring to Jairus' daughter because he raised her from the dead.

Secondly it shows that Jesus has power over death. He was able to rise Jairus' daughter from death. It was a picture of his resurrection.

Moreover the healing of Jairus' daughter shows that Jesus is God because he had the power to perform miracles. "And with God all things are possible," - the Bible says.

Finally it shows that Jesus had compassion on Jairus and his daughter because he ~~came~~ ^{came} even when she had died and brought her back to life.

(d) (i) Yes I think the baptism of Jesus shows that he is God because all the Trinity were present, Holy Spirit like a dove, God spoke, Jesus was baptised

Also it was a picture of ~~Jesus~~ his death and resurrection.

Finally John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for God.

(ii) However some people may say that Jesus being baptised he was washing away his sin so he couldn't have been God.

Also it was just a symbol, an ^{example} ~~sga~~ for what christians should do. It was just symbolic.

Finally baptism is a picture of his death and resurrection, it was just a picture.



7b Two correct reasons, developed = 4 marks

Reason 1: God created us

Development: so he must be able to perform miracles

Reason 2: He performed many other miracles

Development: the examples given of other miracles

In this response, the first reason 'With God all things are possible' is ignored because it is an undeveloped reason and there are two other developed reasons.

7c Level 4 = 8 marks

Three correct descriptions, with one developed, answered coherently

Description 1: it shows Jesus was kind and caring to Jairus' daughter

Development: (before) as women those days were overlooked

Description 2: shows that Jesus has power over death

Development: it was a picture of his resurrection

7d(i) One correct reason, developed = 2 marks

Reason 1: all the Trinity were present

Development: the Holy Spirit came like a dove, God spoke, Jesus is baptised

7d(ii) One correct reason, developed = 2 marks

Reason 1: he was washing away his sin

Development: so he could not have been God

16 Marks

Question 8 (a)

This question caused some confusion amongst students. Many gave a description of the sacrament of confession or said that it meant declaring your sorrow for sins committed. In a general context, this would be correct, but it is not particularly a feature of Mark's gospel. This is a case where learning the glossary definition (part of the specification) would have been beneficial and,

to be fair, many students did. The context in which this word occurs is in Peter's confession of faith, at Caesarea Philippi.

Below are two examples - one a partially correct answer and one fully correct.

(a) Confession is when someone goes to the priest to confess their sins in order for them to be forgiven.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A partially correct definition, as shown in the mark scheme.

1 mark



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

With (a) questions in order to be sure of achieving 2 marks, it is best to learn the glossary definition and to give that as your answer.

(a) Confession is the acknowledgment or declaration of something (sometimes sin)



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A correct definition
2 marks

Question 8 (b)(c)(d)

Although this question was not as popular as Q7bcd, it tended to be answered more successfully.

Below is an example of a full mark answer.

(b) Yes because Mark showed that Jesus had divine powers. For example he performed many miracles such as turning water into wine and ~~on~~ walking on water. These go against the laws of nature and require some sort of otherworldly power to do, which must have come from God proving Jesus is the Son of God.

I also think Mark proves Jesus is the Son of God because of his portrayal of the baptism story. In it God declares that Jesus is ~~in~~ ~~this~~ his son and the holy spirit comes down on him. This directly ~~shows~~ ^{gives} as proof that Jesus' is the Son of God.

(c) The transfiguration shows that Jesus is the Son of God. This is because it shows the ~~a~~ divine power he holds which can only come from God. For example it is said that ~~Jesus~~ ^{he} when Jesus changed, he was meaning dazzling white. At the time there were no things like bleach so to get a material like this would have been almost impossible and would need some sort of supernatural power. Also

the passage includes the voice of God stating that Jesus is his son, revealing his identity as the Son of God.

The transfiguration also shows that Jesus was the Messiah. This is because of the presence of the two dead prophets, Elijah and Moses. Elijah was a prophet who many believed would return before the coming of the Messiah and by being there with Jesus, he was showing he was the Messiah.

Moses was the prophet who saved the Jews and formed a new covenant with God. Being there with Jesus represents that Jesus' role as the Messiah which was to save humanity from their sins and form a new relationship with God.

(d) (i) I agree that it is impossible to believe in the miracles of Jesus today because we live in an age of science. Proof is required for things and the words written by someone nearly 2000 years ago are not very reliable. They also lived in superstitious times back then so it is probable that Jesus' actions were just blown out of proportion.

Also science has helped find out the laws of nature ~~and~~ and Jesus' actions go against these, meaning they were impossible.

- (ii) On the other hand some may disagree because of what they believe about God. They see him as someone who is all powerful and he made the ~~laws~~ laws of nature so he can change them. Since Jesus is his son this power is passed down to him allowing him to perform miracles.

Also some parts of Christianity believe that the Bible is the word of God and they have faith that everything that happened in it was true, ~~including~~ including the miracles of Jesus.



8b Two correct reasons, developed = 4 marks

Reason 1: Mark showed that Jesus had divine powers

Development: the examples he gives

Reason 2: in the baptism story, God declares that Jesus is his son

Development: the Holy Spirit comes down on him

8c Level 4 = 8 marks

Two correct descriptions, with one fully developed, answered coherently

Description 1: the transfiguration shows that Jesus is the Son of God, because it shows the divine power he wields

First development: the example of the change in his appearance

Second development: the voice of God stated that he was his son

Description 2: shows he was messiah, because of the presence of Moses and Elijah

8d(i) Three correct reasons = 3 marks

Reason 1: we live an age of science where proof is required

Reason 2: words written 2000 years ago are not very reliable

Reason 3: they lived in superstitious times and Jesus' actions were blown out of proportion

8d(ii) Two correct reasons, with one developed = 3 marks

Reason 1: some see God as all-powerful

Development: he made the laws of nature so he can change them

Reason 2: some Christians believe the Bible is the word of God, so everything in it is true

18 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

In the (c) questions, if you only tell the story on which the question is based, you will only achieve Level 1 – 2 marks. Reasons must always be given, to take it further.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, students are offered the following advice:

- There is a choice of two questions per section; each of these has four sub-questions. Students may either attempt the sub-questions in the top question (odd-numbered) or the sub-questions in the bottom question (even-numbered). Students who choose sub-questions from a mixture of the top and bottom questions will not receive marks for all of their responses and, as such, are at a clear disadvantage
- Students are asked to indicate which question they have answered by putting a cross in a box at the top of the paper: **this indicates which question they are answering** – students should not cross out the question they are not doing. Some students did not follow the rubric and they should be reminded to do so, as part of their examination preparation
- The amount of lines given on the examination paper is more than adequate for students to achieve maximum marks. There is no need for students to write more than this. If students write more than can be inserted into the allocated lineage, they are using up too much time on that particular question. Almost all of the students who used extra paper had already achieved maximum marks on that question. Any student who needs extra space may use that space allocated to other questions, as long as they indicate clearly on their paper that this is what they have done
- Students produced some very interesting answers to the questions posed. This indicated that they and their teachers had not only studied the topic but, importantly, had also 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 student's point of view is credited in part (b) questions. The easiest way to gain full marks is for students 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 quotation
- On part (c) questions, students may gain the higher mark within the level by writing coherently. Part (c) questions test AO1 and so either will ask for students to 'Explain why' or to 'Explain how'
- This year, many of the part (d) questions this year produced interesting answers. However, in part (d)(i), students should ensure that they begin by stating their own view and their reasons for it. In part (d)(ii) students should state reasons why someone might hold a different view, 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 may be a quote from Mark's gospel or a reference to something in it), to go beyond achieving three 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



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



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