

Examiners' Report
June 2014

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS10 01

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Introduction

There was a significant increase in entries for this Unit this year, with the new policy on linear exams having taken effect.

What is most striking is the depth and subtlety of understanding shown by many students in respect of quite challenging religious concepts. It is testimony to the work done in many Catholic schools, as well as other centres, who use this Unit to develop in their teenage pupils a good grounding in the core doctrines of the Catholic faith. Many demonstrate a maturity of understanding. In particular, there are the answers to questions about the meaning of baptism, and their often detailed knowledge of Jesus' teaching on such issues as the use of money and attitudes towards outcasts.

That is not to say that all questions were answered equally well. It was evident that fewer students understood the view of Protestants on the Catholic Church's claim to authority, and there is still some confusion about the events of Holy Week. The concept of Social and Community cohesion continues to confuse, many seeing it as just another teaching about loving your neighbour. In short, there are some gaps in knowledge and understanding, and centres are advised to cover the whole of the specification evenly.

From a more technical point of view, it would be useful to candidates to have a clear idea of how to develop reasons. It is an essential requirement for full marks in (b) questions, and can help candidates who can think of only one or two reasons in response to (c) and (d) questions.

Teachers are urged to look carefully at the examples below, which contain both successful and less successful approaches. An attempt has been made in particular to highlight good practice in respect of questions which a number of candidates found difficult.

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

This four-part question was the less well-answered of the Section 1 options. There were specific reasons for this.

Part (a) asked the meaning of the Virgin Birth. To gain full marks, answers had to make reference to the birth of Jesus either by name, or by reference to Mary.

Part (b) asked whether members of a religious community can show love for others. Some candidates did not appear to understand that a religious community is understood within the specification to refer specifically to monks and nuns, communities of brothers and sisters in vows. This has arisen before and, whilst some candidates clearly understood this, many did not. Examiners were asked to award marks to all answers that could have been referring to a religious community. For example, an answer which simply said 'yes they can, they can do charity work' would have gained one mark.

Part (c) asked why it is important for Christians to believe in God as the Creator. Candidates were able to refer both to theological and philosophical reasons - quoting the Genesis account for example, or referring to the Design argument. Overall, it was well-answered.

Part (d) asked about the need for people to be saved from their sins. There was a disparate range of approaches to this question, perhaps suggesting that candidates were less well prepared for it than for some other questions.

On the positive side, many candidates spoke about the need to be saved to go to heaven, or suggested that it was the reason why Jesus gave up his life. Some candidates spoke about the need for forgiveness rather than salvation but, as the two ideas are clearly related (within the Sacrament of Reconciliation for example) this approach was rewarded.

On the negative side, most candidates referred to non-believers who therefore did not believe in sin, and some spoke about unforgiveable sins. Despite these many acceptable answers, there was still a number of candidates who found it difficult to gain marks.

This is an example of a very good answer. It does not gain full marks, but it does give a very good idea of the approach taken by more successful candidates. It also illustrates the difference between a developed reason and one which has not been developed.

In part (b) the question asked whether members of a religious community **can** show love to others. Answers that give reasons why they **should** could only be accepted as development.

(a) The belief that Jesus was not conceived through sex

(b) I think that members of a religious community can show love for others, because the Missionarys of Charity work 10 to 12 hours a day in centres such as orphanages and leprosy centres, full filling the commandment of showing love to others.

Also I think this because an contemplative ~~community~~ ^{order}, such as the Carmelite nuns, show love to others by giving all their material possessions to the poor, and pray for other people.

(c) It is important for Christians to believe in God the Creator, because in the creeds and Catechism, which are statements of Christian belief and the official teachings of the Catholic Church, that God is the creator, so Christians must believe he is.

Also, it is important to believe in God as the Creator because in the Genesis 1 of the Bible it says He did. This must be believed because the Bible is the ~~the~~ Word of God, so has supreme authority.

Thirdly, it is important to believe in God the Creator because it shows God's omnipotence. This means he is all powerful, so would be able to create the world and everything in it.

Finally, it is important ^{for Christians} to believe in God the Creator because ~~it~~ gives a purpose to life, ~~making~~ making it more meaningful and sacred. This means it backs up the 10 commandments, especially 'do not kill'

(d) (i) I agree, because Catholics believe that ^{the catechism says that} salvation, ~~saving~~ saving from sin is the only way to achieve eternal life.

Also, Catholics believe that God sent down Jesus to bring salvation ^{as it says in the bible} and if it is God's will to be saved from sin then this must be done

Finally, a Catholic may have had a vocation, asking them to save people from sin. They must do this, because it is the will of God.

(ii) On the other hand, someone may disagree because in the bible it says ^{that faith} it is not necessary for ~~belief~~ eternal life, you just have to be a good person.

Also, some Christians, for example ~~Quakers~~ Quakers, do not have sacraments such as reconciliation to be forgiven sins, so might not be able to have their forgiven

Finally some sins are merely venial, not so
as long as the person has no mortal sins, they can
still achieve salvation.



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Examiner Comments

1(a) is the glossary definition. 2 marks

1(b) The first answer is developed. It describes what the Missionaries of Charity do, and then explains how this fulfils the commandment to love. The fact that contemplatives give their belongings to the poor and that they pray for others are valid reasons, but not connected to each other, so they are just simple reasons. 3 marks

1(c) This answer offers a full range of reasons. The belief in God as Creator is in the Catechism and Creeds. It is in the Bible, in Genesis, it reflects belief in God's omnipotence, and it helps life to have meaning and purpose. All of these are acceptable approaches. 8 marks

1(d) offers three simple reasons on each side. However, the first answer to (d)(ii) is about the distinction between faith and good works so does not answer the question.

(d)(i) 3 marks (d)(ii) 2 marks



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Examiner Tip

Part (b) highlights the fact that some questions ask for ways and some ask for reasons. Sometimes (in (c) questions for example) students will be asked to 'explain how' and sometimes 'explain why'. It is important that they are encouraged to spot this distinction and answer the question as set.

In part (c) - in the answer about the importance of believing in God as Creator - in one paragraph the answer says that the belief is in the Book of Genesis, and then adds that the Bible is important because it is the Word of God. This is not development, because it does not tell us why belief in God as Creator is important. It says why belief in the Bible is important.

The answer could have been developed by quoting some appropriate lines from Genesis.

As part (b) to this question proved to be the most challenging, another example would be useful.

(b) I think members of a religious community can show love of others because unless their indoors all the time, they will work in society. That would show love of others.

They can also show love of others by running activities such as bible studies or youth groups. This is because you'll be spreading the religion and showing love of others.



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Examiner Comments

Once again here, the example illustrates both a developed and an undeveloped reason.

The first reason is simple. They can work in society and this would show love.

The second reason is developed. First it says what they can do, such as running bible groups. This is developed by saying that this spreads religion - both of which can be seen as ways of showing love to others.

3 marks

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

Q2 was better answered than Q1, with many of the strongest candidates gaining full marks.

2 (a) asked about the Catechism. The two parts required to gain full marks were that it was something formalised (a statement or a similar word) and it included Christian or Catholic beliefs/teachings.

2 (b) asked about the importance for Christians to believe in only one God. This proved to be the most challenging part of this question, but candidates were able to talk about the meaning of the Trinity, or how belief in an omnipotent God led to a belief in the oneness of God.

2 (c) was very well-answered. Candidates were able to quote many references to teachings in the Bible that supported the idea that Christians should love others. It was surprising how many candidates still believe that 'Love your neighbour' is one of the Ten Commandments, although examiners were asked to reward those who pointed out that many of the Ten Commandments are about loving your neighbour.

2 (d) asked about the importance of loving God. Most candidates were able to respond to this question, with reasons and developed reasons on both sides. On the positive side, they tended to focus on repaying God's love; on the negative side, they focussed on non-belief, and on the hurtful aspects of the world for which God may be held responsible.

This is a very good answer to Q2, and one that illustrates the range of reasons that were deployed to answer part (c). It should be noted how often the candidate simply says that something is important because the Catechism teaches it. See comments on this below.

(a) The official teaching of the Roman Catholic Church

(b) It is very important for Christians to believe in only one God this is because ~~in the~~ ~~the~~ the Bible teaches there is only one God. Therefore Christians should believe in one God.

In addition in Mass Christians are taught to believe in one God as they say "I believe in one God". This prayer teaches Christians there is only one God. Therefore it is very important to believe in one God as it is taught in the church to.

(c) ~~Christians~~ show love. It is important for Christians to show love to others as Jesus taught love your neighbour as your self. This is important as this teaching was

from the son of God ^{who was} the perfect example. Therefore as Christians we must follow.

In the Bible it teaches the ~~sermon~~ parable of the sheep and goat. Through this parable Christians learn how to care for others. Through showing love to others Christians have the opportunity to gain eternal life.

It is important that Christians show love to others as it strengthens an individual's relationship with God. This is because God would give individuals eternal life as they are following what he says.

Lastly ~~Jesus~~ the carnecism teaches that showing love for God is ~~very~~ ^{very} important. This is because it is a very good thing to do and it would give ~~an~~ individual eternal life.

(d) I agree with this statement this is because God guides and protects us that why it is ~~impor~~ important to love him. In addition the Bible teaches that it is important.

to love God with all soul and heart.
The Catechism also teaches we should
love God as he is our creator. Therefore
without him we wouldn't be on earth.

(iii) Some people etc may disagree with
me as they are atheist

In addition some people may say why
should we love God when he doesn't
always love us.

lastly some people are unsure on how to
show love to God.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Part (a) is the glossary definition. 2 marks

Part (b) has both a simple and a developed reason. The simple reason is that the Bible says people should believe in one God. The second reason is that it is taught at Mass, developed with the appropriate line from the Creed. 3 marks.

Part (c) includes a full range of reasons: Jesus taught his followers to love their neighbours; the story of the sheep and goats further exemplifies the teaching, and this is developed in the next paragraph as it relates loving others to loving God, which is, of course, the theme of the parable; finally it is taught in the Catechism. 8 marks

Part (d) Again, there are three reasons for why people should love God given on each side. In this case the reference to the Catechism goes on to explain what is taught there, which is good to see. The final reason in (d)(ii) does not quite answer the question, even though it is possible to guess what they were trying to say.

(d)(i) 3 marks (d)(ii) 2 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Most things that Christians believe are taught in the Catechism. It is disappointing that it is used as a default answer quite as often as it is. One suspects that most GCSE candidates have not read the Catechism, so in most cases the answer shows no actual knowledge.

Many candidates lose marks in part (b) questions because they do not develop their reasons. Here is an example.

(b) yes because the christian belief is that there is only one god so if you are a christian you should only believe that there is only one god. Another reason why it is important is because no one can be as powerful and special as god which means that the one god we believe in is a one of a kind.



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Examiner Comments

The first reason here is that belief in only one God is Christian teaching. It is not development to add that therefore Christians should believe this.

In the same way, no one can be as powerful as God is not developed by saying he is one of a kind, because that is really just to say the same thing again.

2 marks



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Examiner Tip

Development is most commonly achieved by giving a relevant example, or by drawing out further the implication of the reason.

In this example:

In the first reason, the candidate could have added the opening words of the Creed as development, as an example of Christian teaching.

In the second reason, the candidate could have gone on to draw out the idea further, by saying that two all-powerful gods would be a logical contradiction. Some candidates did.

Question 3 (a)

This question asked about the meaning of Anglican Churches. The full definition required an understanding that they are in union with the Church of England, although - as with all (a) questions - answers gaining a single mark were possible.

Overall, this was a well-answered question, and many candidates gave the definition from the specification. Paraphrases were marked correct if they captured the essence of the meaning.

The most common partial understanding was that they are Protestant Churches. Whilst some Anglicans will dispute that description, it is sufficiently widely held for it to merit one mark.

A fully correct answer - using the definition found in the specification

(a) Churches in communion with the Church of England.



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Fully correct 2 marks

Another fully correct answer, but one which does not get the specification definition entirely right

(a) A church which is in communication with with the church of England.



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Examiners are encouraged not to penalise unnecessarily. It is clear that the candidate understood the key word, but was slightly confused about terminology.

2 marks

Sometimes answers contain a kernel of truth but are not sufficiently focussed to be rewarded.

(a) Churches that accept priest to have sex and are able to have a wife.



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Examiner Comments

This answer could not gain any marks. Although it is true that Anglican Churches allow priests to marry, that is also true for many non-Anglican Churches, and does not actually even partially define the term itself. Even partial answers have to help one to understand the specifics of the key word.

0 marks



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Examiner Tip

Often it is better for candidates to learn the definitions of key words as found in the specification.

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

This was the better-answered of the two Section 2 questions, and certainly the most popular.

3 (b) asked about the importance of the Bible for Roman Catholics. Many approaches were possible. Most candidates mentioned specific teachings and developed them by explaining the benefits that could come from following them. There were few answers that suggested the Bible is not important, which could be thought to reflect well on the beneficial effects of the teachings of Vatican II.

3 (c) asked candidates to explain why bishops are important in the Catholic Church. This was answered very well, although centres are advised to make a strong distinction between the roles of bishops and priests. Examiners could not reward answers that said bishops are important because they celebrate Mass, for example. They did reward answers that referred specifically to special Masses celebrated at the cathedral.

3 (d) proved to be the most challenging part of this question. The idea of the Church as the means to faith was not understood well, save by some of the more able candidates who wrote about Apostolic Succession and the Magisterium. Examiners did allow answers that spoke about going to church, not least because of the role of the sacraments and the proclamation of the Gospel as a means to faith. On the negative side, candidates wrote about getting their faith from their parents, from school and from the more private aspects of their relationship with God.

This is an example from a candidate who scored full marks for this question.

It is a good example of the use of development.

3 (d) was a question that some found challenging, so it will be useful to see a fully correct answer.

(b) Yes, I do think the Bible is important for Roman Catholics because it is the inspired word of God and therefore contains some of God's wishes which we have to be a part of and follow to do as he wants.

Secondly, I do think the Bible is important for Roman Catholics because it also contains stories told by Jesus, e.g. the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats which gives us a clear teaching on how to lead a good Christian life.

(c) Bishops are important in the Roman Catholic Church because they, along with the Pope, make up the Magisterium; where the Pope and the Bishops interpret the Bible and tradition for Roman Catholics today, making the Bible teachings relevant to some modern day issues.

Secondly, the Bishops are important to the Roman Catholic Church because they look after all of the priests and people in their diocese, making sure everything is running well and the people are being taught the one 'true' faith.

Thirdly, the Bishops are important to the Roman Catholic Church because they are in charge and disciplining all of the priests in their diocese if they are not acting or teaching in the correct way.

Finally, the bishops are important to the Roman Catholic Church because they act as a 'bridge' between the pope (the head of the Catholic Church) to the laity, so they get to know every decision that is made.

(d) (i) I disagree that 'the church ~~is~~ is the only means to faith' because you could just as easily decide or learn about your faith by praying / reading the Bible at home rather than going to church. Secondly, I disagree that 'the church is the only means to faith' because most of the teachings that are needed to live a good Christian life are given ~~in the ten commandments~~ ^{in the ten commandments,} ~~in the~~ ^{sermon on} the mount, parables, which are all contained in the Bible and you can achieve faith by following them not just by going to church.

Thirdly, I disagree because just because the one 'true' faith is taught by the church it doesn't mean everyone will then have faith, because they may feel other teachings that aren't in church are more helpful.

(ii) Someone may disagree with me because in Roman Catholic Christianity the church is the only thing that provides 'the one true faith' as the teachings of the church have been passed down through Apostolic Tradition - the belief that the church can only be understood in the light of the apostles.

Secondly, someone may disagree because through Apostolic Succession the authority ~~a~~ Jesus gave to St. Peter the first Pope is passed down to other popes, who can then teach Roman Catholics through the

Church, therefore making it the only means to faith.
Finally, someone may disagree with me because
the Bible may contain teachings on how to live / act well but,
Some of the teaching don't apply to modern problems therefore by having
the magisterium teach through the church, it is the
only means to faith.

Turn over ▶



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Examiner Comments

3 (b) There are two developed reasons, here, about the importance of the Bible for Catholics. The first is that it is the inspired Word of God. The development is that, by implication, it tells us God's wishes.

The second reason is that it contains stories told by Jesus, developed in this case with the example of the parable of the Sheep and Goats. 4 marks

3 (c) There are many ways in which bishops can be thought important.

Here are some developed reasons:

They form part of the Magisterium, developed with the implication that this means they interpret the Bible for Roman Catholics today.

A second reason is that they have care of all the people in the diocese, developed with the idea that they ensure that the priests are teaching correctly. 8 marks

3 (d) this answer contains many of the reasons for and against the Church being seen as the only means to faith - mentioning the Bible and prayer as means to faith, as well as the Apostolic tradition and the Magisterium.

(d)(i) 3 marks (d)(ii) 3 marks



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Examiner Tip

Note in (b) that there is development by implication, and development using an example.

3 (d) is the part of this question that more candidates found challenging. Here is an example that highlights some of the confusion in reading the question.

(d) (i) No because you can show your faith at home by praying to god at key points in the day.
Secondly you can show your faith by taking the eucharist to the sick on Sundays.
Thurdly you can show your faith by helping charitys by doing charity work for them or giving money to there good causes.

(ii) No because Pesty gods presents is greatust inside a church.
Secondly in a church a preast is gods messenger so he relays your prayer to god through him.
Thurdly the church is an easy place to meditate where as anywere else there is a lot of distraction.



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The question is about the Church as a means to faith. In other words, as a way of helping Christians to grow in faith. Some of the candidates seemed not to understand the terminology fully.

Here, for example, the first part of the answer is about showing faith, so it gained no marks.

However, because examiners will give the benefit of the doubt, as the second part does not continue to talk about showing faith, it is possible to award three marks to d(ii) - because God's presence is greatest in church, because the priest relays one's prayers to God, because it is easier to pray in church - all of which could be seen as aids to growth in faith.

(d)(i) 0 marks (d)(ii) 3 marks



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It is clear that not all candidates understand the term 'means to'. When setting the examination use has to be made of the words from the specification whenever possible, but candidates should be informed that:

- the Church as the means to faith means the Church as the way people can gain more faith in God (by teachings, the sacraments, providing a place to be close to God and similar)
- the Church as the means to salvation means the Church as providing the teachings that help people to be saved and get to heaven (baptism and reconciliation, teaching about sin and how to avoid it and similar).

Question 4 (a)

This question asked 'Who are the laity?' Most candidates knew they are the non-ordained members of the Church, although some believed exactly the opposite.

Many candidates offered a correct definition or a correct paraphrase.

(a) The people who have not be
chosen to be a priest, bishop or
deacon.



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Examiner Comments

Fully correct. 2 marks.

For full marks the answer had to indicate in some way the non-ordained status of the laity. There were many ways of gaining the single mark for a partially correct answer.

write your answer here:

(a) The laity is the Community of
Catholics within the Church



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Examiner Comments

This was awarded one mark because the use of the term 'the community' suggests some sense of the larger group that constitutes the laity.

1 mark

write your answer here:

(a) The ~~rest of~~ the people below the pope in the
church. For example the cardinals and bishops.

Some candidates were unable to make the distinction between ordained and non-ordained.



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Examiner Comments

Laity could be said to be 'below' the Pope, but the candidate adds bishops and cardinals, who are not the laity, so no marks were awarded.

0 marks

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

Part (d) of Q4 proved to be particularly challenging, even for some of the most able candidates. This was therefore the least popular and the least well-answered of the two options in this section.

4 (b) asked about the importance of the Virgin Mary, and it was answered well. Some candidates still cannot distinguish between the Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Birth, but that did not lose marks for too many candidates. Many spoke of Mary's role in giving birth to Jesus. The most popular second reason was that Mary acts as a role model.

4 (c) was also answered well. Candidates were able to explain that the Pope leads the Church, appoints bishops, and is the successor of St Peter (or, for some, St Paul!). Some continue to believe that he is God-like, whilst others identified him correctly as the Vicar of Christ, at least in similar words.

4 (d) was not well-answered. Some candidates were well prepared for it, and understood Protestant beliefs very well, and an example will be provided below. Those who did not know rarely managed to guess, and some offered the thought that Protestants do not believe in God and similar ideas. It will be quite important for some centres to focus more time on Protestantism, its origins and beliefs. Those candidates who had some understanding of the history of the Reformation were able to answer this quite well.

Here is a fully correct answer. This will also demonstrate how strong candidates approached Q4 (d).

(b) Yes, I do think this; because ^{the Virgin Mary} she is a good role model on how to live a pure life. This is because she was born from an Immaculate Conception - she was born without original sin.
My second reason is that without her, Jesus would not have existed; because she agreed to God's plan. Since Jesus is important to Catholics, Mary must be even more important as she gave birth to God's Son.

(c) One job that the Pope has is that he is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. This means that he is in control of the Church, and can guide Catholics on how to live.
The Pope is also in charge of the Magisterium. This means - along with the

bishops - he interprets the Bible and tradition for Roman Catholics. This is important, because it is he who sets the teachings of the Church and constructs the Catechism; all Catholics follow these teachings.

The Pope also guides Catholics on old teachings and new ones, for example genetic engineering. He does this in many ways: two examples are encyclicals - which clarify teachings - and books. Pope Francis has released a book called 'The Joy of the Gospel' which explains Gospel teachings, one being the celibacy of the priests. For this reason, he is important.

Moreover, the Pope appoints new bishops. This is important for Catholics, as it provides the people that will oversee the dioceses, and pass on the faith and teachings of the Church to the priests and laity.

(iii) Some people may disagree, because they have similar teachings on certain issues - some agree on abortion teachings. Also, in relation to the eucharist, some Protestant Churches side with the Catholic belief of transubstantiation (transforming bread and wine) instead of consubstantiation (bread and wine are only symbols). Moreover, some Protestant Churches have seven sacraments and have priests instead of ministers, meaning they accept the authority of the Church.



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Examiner Comments

4 (b) This answer contains the two most popular reasons given by candidates - that Mary is a role model and that she gave birth to Jesus. Here, both of them are developed. 4 marks

4 (c) The Pope is important because he leads the Church, he heads the Magisterium, he explains the teaching on new moral issues, and he appoints bishops. This answer also contains a number of examples of development (such as the reference to Pope Francis' encyclical - even named!). 8 marks

4 (d) This is very well-answered. The candidate mentions that Protestants focus more on the authority of the Bible, that they interpret it democratically, and that they have women priests, which contradicts Catholic teaching. On the opposite side, the candidate focuses on where Protestants believe established Catholic teaching - some oppose abortion, accept transubstantiation, and accept seven sacraments.

(d)(i) 3 marks (d)(ii) 3 marks



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Examiner Tip

In 4 (d)(ii) there is a good example of how to counter the argument that Protestants do not accept the authority of the Church, and how the candidate has used their knowledge of the variety of Protestant positions to good effect. It suggests that Protestants accept the authority of the Church, as they understand it.

In 4 (d) a number of candidates had difficulty explaining how it could be argued that Protestants do, in some ways, accept the authority of the Church. Here is an example.

Protestants do not accept the authority of
the Church.
(d) (i) I agree because protestants ~~at~~ such
as salvation army do not have sacraments
so they don't believe in the Eucharist's importance
that the Church teaches. *as catholics do to achieve
a close relationship with
God.

Another reason I agree is because for Anglicans
they do not have the magisterium, ^{like catholics do} meaning
that they interpret the bible themselves and don't
follow the church's guidance.

Finally I agree because they do not have
a pope like catholics do, they believe he is the
successor of Peter, and issues statements of what they
(ii) believe, and protestants don't have this to follow.

Someone may disagree with me because Hindus
and other religions still have places of worship
they just don't call them the Church.

Another way someone may disagree with me
is because we believe there is one God and

he gives authority to the Church, but many and the Church is open for all to worship in.

Finally someone may disagree with me because no matter what race or religion, we all can turn to the Church for help such as family issues.



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Examiner Comments

On one side, the candidate points out rightly that the Salvation Army does not accept Church teachings on sacraments, the Anglicans (could be said to) have no Magisterium, but interpret the Bible for themselves. They do not recognise the authority of the Pope.

But on the other side, most of the argument is not about Protestants. There is also a middle paragraph which gives the Catholic argument about authority but does not go on to suggest that Protestants might also hold this view. It looks as though the candidate is well-prepared to explain various positions about authority, but not so well-prepared to discuss them.

Apart from the examples seen in the earlier script, candidates could have argued that some Protestants accept the authority of the Church as the people of God, but not as an Institutional Church. Also that some Anglicans do, in fact, recognise some aspects of Papal Authority, that many Anglicans have opposed the ordination of women because it conflicts with traditional Church teaching, and that some Protestants have a hierarchy.

(d)(i) 3 marks (d)(ii) 0 marks



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Examiner Tip

All the topics in the Specification can and need to be used at some point to test both AO1 and AO2. Candidates need to be prepared to argue for and against in respect of all of the themes.

Question 5 (a)

This question asked the meaning of commemoration. For both marks, the candidates needed to indicate that commemoration referred to the celebration of the Eucharist, and that it is seen (simply) as a remembrance or memorial of the Last Supper - that is, in contrast with Catholic beliefs.

This question was not answered very well, overall. Those candidates who tried to paraphrase the definition were rarely successful. Many candidates knew it was about 'remembering' (which gained 1 mark).

This answer offers all that is required for 2 marks - the idea of remembrance and the link to the Last Supper

write your answer here:

(a) Commemoration is the belief that the Eucharist is the remembrance of the last supper.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Although the definition in the specification requires the word 'simply' - simply a remembrance - answers that did not include the word were given full marks because the sense was expressed sufficiently.

2 marks

This is an example of a partially correct answer.

(a) The belief that the Eucharist is the re-enactment of the last supper.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The key idea needed for two marks is 'remembrance'. This identifies the Last Supper, but the idea of a re-enactment does not capture that sense of remembrance which distinguishes it from Catholic teaching. Therefore this gains only one mark.

1 mark

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

Section 3 is usually a well-answered section, and this year was no exception.

5 (b) asked whether Christmas is the most important Christian festival. Many candidates were able to propose and develop reasons for and against. Those who argued against usually opted for Easter as being more important. The question was well-answered.

5 (c) was also well-answered. Many candidates knew that baptism washes away original sin and welcomes people into God's family. Some of the more able candidates offered accurate explanations of the meaning of specific symbols such as the water and the baptismal candle. Many candidates gained full marks on this question.

5 (d) There was some confusion about Confirmation, some believing it to be the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But most candidates knew that it was an opportunity for Catholics to decide whether or not they wanted to re-affirm the commitment made at baptism. Generally, candidates were able to argue from both sides, the negative side focussing on the right to make one's own decision, and of the possible loss of faith. This is an example of a question where the answer 'no because they might not be Catholics/they may be atheists' could not be rewarded. The question asks whether all Catholics should be confirmed. However, answers that suggested baptised Catholics might have lost their faith were rewarded.

Here is an example of a very good answer to all parts of this question.

(b) Yes, I think Christmas is the most important Christian festival because it celebrates the birth of Jesus which is the ^{incarnation} initiation of the Christian faith so it is very important.

Furthermore, the celebration of Christmas also symbolises the incarnation and helps Christians to remember how 'God loved us so much to send his only begotten son to save us from sins.'
(John 3:16)

(c) For Roman Catholics, Baptism ~~now means~~ is a time when a child is born into the faith of Christianity and promises are made for the child to grow up successfully knowing Jesus and obeying

Furthermore, it is also a time when God's holy trinity is present just like in the baptism of Jesus where ~~Jesus was~~ God spoke, the son was baptised and the holy spirit gave an invisible grace.

Moreover, Baptism for Roman Catholics is also a time when Christians can be saved from sin because it is a sacrament which means the holy spirit gives gifts of peace, love and joy.

Finally, Baptism is one of the most important sacraments in Roman Catholic Church therefore it means that it also helps a Christian to be in a close relationship with God.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement because the bible did not mention anything about confirmation so it doesn't have to be done.

Furthermore, I believe that Catholics can enter heaven without the sacrament of confirmation so it's not that important.

Also a personally person can renew their faith and understanding with God personally through prayer instead of being confirmed.

(iii) Some could argue that since the magisterium are inspired by the Holy Spirit and have decided that confirmation is ~~not~~ a sacrament then it must be important.

Also some could argue that, ^{Catholics believe} confirmation is a moment that allows a Christian to ~~decide~~ ^{renew} their faith because at baptism parents had vowed ~~for~~ on their behalf.

Lastly, they could argue that the sacrament of confirmation gives a person an invisible grace which enables them to live the Christian life God wants.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

5 (b) There are two developed reasons here.

Saying Christmas is important because it celebrates the birth of Jesus would gain one mark. The development explains that his birth marks the initiation of the Christian faith.

The second reason points out that Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, developed by drawing out the idea that this is a sign of God's love, he sent his own son to die. 4 marks

5 (c) There were many valid explanations of the meaning of baptism. In this answer the candidate indicates that it marks a commitment for the child to be brought up knowing Jesus, that it marks the presence of the Trinity just as they were present at Jesus' baptism, it is a time when sins are forgiven and it is a sacrament which helps bring Christians closer to God. 8 marks

5 (d) This answer suggests that the Bible does not mention confirmation. Of course this is not the Catholic view, and other candidates have pointed to the presence of the Holy Spirit at Jesus' baptism, and at Pentecost. Otherwise, all of these reasons represent the arguments put forward most commonly by candidates.

(d)(i) 2 marks (d)(ii) 3 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

The use of separate paragraphs to mark each new reason is very helpful. It helps the examiner to see the arguments clearly. More importantly, it helps the candidate to present their ideas in an organised way.

This answer again highlights the lack of development in (b) questions.

(b) I do think Christmas is the most important catholic festival because this is when Jesus was born and we remember that.

Another reason I do think Christmas is the most important festival because we remember the gifts the the king gave to Jesus the son of God.



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Examiner Comments

There are two simple reasons here, but ones that could have been developed quite easily.

The first reason is that Christmas celebrates when Jesus was born. If the candidate had added that this was a miraculous birth, or that Jesus is believed to be the Son of God, or that he was born to bring salvation, they would have gained the second mark.

The second reason is that Christmas is the time we remember the gifts given by the kings. If they had added what one of the gifts represented, or that this is the origin of Christians giving gifts to each other, they would have gained the extra mark.

2 marks

Question 6 (a)

The definition in the Specification for 'penance' refers to the act undertaken to show contrition. However, in Catholic circles it is sometimes used to cover the whole of the sacrament, and answers that reflected that understanding were rewarded.

An example of a rubric error

Write your answer here:

(a) Commemoration is where the bishops confirm people.



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This is an attempted answer to 5 (a) but in response to 6 (a). In fact, it is a wrong answer anyway, but it is an example of a rubric error.

0 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Once again, this year centres are encouraged to tell candidates to cross out the question they have decided not to answer. There seemed to be fewer rubric errors this year, but still a number of marks are lost through this type of mistake, affecting a candidate's final mark.

A partially correct answer

(a) the act of saying sorry for your sins.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This answer identifies a part only of the sacrament of reconciliation (sometimes called penance) and so it is awarded 1 mark.

A fully correct answer

Write your answer here:

(a) An act to show your contrition.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

It is usually the case that full marks are gained mainly by candidates who have learnt the definition, as here.

2 marks

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

This option in Section 3 was answered a little less successfully. This is because of the continued confusion about the meaning of Holy Week.

6 (b) asked whether it is good for Catholics to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. It was answered well, mostly in the positive. Candidates focussed on the forgiveness of sins, the possibility of going to heaven and the restoration of one's relationship with God.

6 (c) Whilst there were many good answers to the question about the meaning of Holy Week, it continues to cause some confusion for candidates unable to distinguish Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Whilst they are clearly part of a continuum, the specification separates them for the purposes of testing. It was obvious that some schools had reinforced the point made in earlier reports, that Easter Sunday morning cannot be regarded as part of Holy Week for the purposes of this Unit.

Answers which focussed exclusively on the resurrection could not be rewarded fully. However, the fact that Holy Week is a period of preparation for Easter did gain marks. For some candidates, the confusion is more profound, with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday both thought to occur during this week.

6 (d) was answered very well. On the positive side, candidates wrote about hearing the Word of God, receiving communion, making time for God. On the negative side, most answers spoke about being able to pray at home, and about good works being more important.

This is a fully correct answer. It is particularly helpful in demonstrating how to gain full marks for 6 (c), the question about the meaning of Holy Week.

(b) Yes it is good for Catholics to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, firstly because it is a sacrament. A sacrament is an outward sign of invisible grace from Jesus. The grace we receive will help us cope in difficult situations and give us strength to push forward.

Secondly because of sins being removed. Reconciliation allows for sin to be forgiven. Sin will distance a person from God and the community. By receiving this sacrament you strengthen your bond with God and society.

(c) Holy week is a time of reflection. We remember the day Jesus comes into Jerusalem and what Jesus sacrificed for us. God gave His son to save us so it is a time to say thank you to God.

Secondly, it is a week of preparation. The week allows people to celebrate the upcoming celebration of heaven. We can prepare by organising the family to go to mass and worshipping God.

It is a time for bettering ourselves. We are reminded of the pain Jesus suffered for us and therefore appreciate our faith more and thus go to church more and pray more.

Finally, it is part of lent. Holy week is the last week of lent so we should try extra hard to fast, give to charity and love our neighbours.

(d) (i) I agree going to mass is the most important part of a catholic's week. Firstly because of the homily. This is the priest's interpretation of the ~~the~~ gospel reading. It allows people to apply the message from the gospel to modern day. Secondly, because of the penitential rite, this is the confession at the beginning of mass. This allows sins to be forgiven and this strengthens our bond with God and the rest of society. Thirdly because of the ~~the~~ sacrament of the Eucharist. ~~the~~ The catholic church teaches us that ~~we~~ we should receive the eucharist once every week in order to achieve salvation.

(ii) Someone may disagree with me, firstly because of the homily. Someone may think that the bible is open to interpretation so we shouldn't be told the message. we should focus on discovering the meaning on our own, not at mass. Secondly because of living a good christian life. someone may say the most important thing to do is live a good life by loving thy neighbour. As long as you do this, there is room for you in heaven. Thirdly because

of raising a christian family. someone may say that because raising a christian family is the most important thing, spending quality time with the family is more important than mass.



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Examiner Comments

6b) There are two developed reasons here.

The first is that reconciliation is a sacrament that brings invisible grace, developed by saying that the grace brings strength.

The second is that reconciliation removes sins, and this restores the relationship with God and society. 4 marks

6c) This is a very thorough answer to the question. It contains many explanations and many developments.

Holy Week is a time of reflection. It is a time when Christians remember the sacrifice of Jesus, which brought salvation. It is a time to give thanks to God. It is a time when Christians prepare for Easter, for example by taking the family to Mass. It is a time for bettering ourselves, out of respect for the pain Jesus suffered. It is part of Lent, when Christians make an extra effort in terms of Lenten observance, such as by fasting. 8 marks

6 (d) was well-answered by many candidates. This is a very good example.

On the one side, Mass allows people to hear the Gospel, to confess their sins and to receive communion. Again some reasons are developed, for example that receiving communion brings salvation.

On the other side, that Christians should interpret the Bible for themselves, should focus on good works, and that raising a family is more important than going to Mass.

(di) 3 marks (d)(ii) 3 marks



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Examiner Tip

Many items on the specification refer to the **meaning** of various aspects of Catholic belief.

The best way to answer questions framed around the meaning is to take an aspect and to explain either what it signifies or why it is important. For example, one part of the meaning of Holy Week is that it remembers Jesus' death, which brought salvation.

It might also be useful to see a script where the candidate found it difficult to gain marks.

(b) Yes because that brings you in the Gods world and life.

(c) Holy week is a time of the year when everybody gets together and celebrates holy week.

(d) (i) ~~By~~ If you are a catholic going to church is very important part of being a catholic

(ii) Some people may disagree because they can be and show to be a catholic in their own way.



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6 (b) This says that reconciliation brings someone into God's world and life. This is vague, but it is entirely correct and gained 1 mark.

6 (c) This could not receive a mark because it does not add anything to the idea of Holy Week. A simple reference to Jesus' death would have taken the answer to Level 1. 0 marks

6 (d) This was awarded one mark on each side. In (d)(i) it was accepted that saying going to Mass is just part of being a Catholic was worth some credit. In (d)(ii) the candidate points out that there are other ways of showing one is a good Catholic.

(d)(i) 1 mark (d)(ii) 1 mark



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

It is worth reminding less able candidates that making the effort to add just a short extra phrase can often gain marks, such as in 6 (c) above.

Question 7 (a)

This question about a 'religious community' was not answered well, overall.

Many candidates seemed unaware of the definition required by the specification. For both marks, candidates needed to write about people living (or working) together, and that these people had dedicated their lives by some particular form of consecration.

A fully correct answer.

(a) a group of monks or nuns living together in order to worship God



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There were many ways in which the fully correct answer could be expressed. Here we have the special dedication (monks and nuns) and the idea of them 'living together'.
2 marks

A partially correct answer

(a) a religious community is a lot of people who live in the same community being religious



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Quite a few judgements had to be made to award this one mark. 'Live in the same community' could just mean in the same area, but it could mean in the same house, and the benefit of the doubt is always given. 'Being religious' however, just repeats the wording of the question and is insufficient to indicate the idea of the consecrated life.

1 mark

An incorrect answer

(a) A community which follows religion.



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This response is only really a paraphrase of the question. Also it could refer to a parish or many other types of community. It does not offer enough to gain any marks.
0 marks

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

In Section 4, candidates were evenly divided between Q7 and Q8. Q7 was answered well, though Q7 (c) proved a challenge for some candidates.

7 (b) Opinions were evenly divided about whether it is wrong for Christians to be rich. Those who thought not, wrote about the right to what one earns and the possibility of being generous to others. The opposite point of view often made more detailed references to the teachings of Jesus.

7 (c) asked how Christians can work for social and community cohesion. This presented challenges to some candidates. Some confused the 'how' question with a 'why' question and did not offer many examples of what could be done. More commonly, candidates failed to understand the concept of 'community cohesion'. Whilst examples of many varieties of work could be rewarded, it needed to be clear that they constituted efforts to bring the community together and were not simply examples of charity and kindness.

7 (d) Many candidates remembered Jesus' teaching about praying and giving in secret and were able to answer this question well. They also offered good reasons from the other perspective, focussing particularly on being witnesses to their beliefs and spreading the Gospel.

This is a very good answer, and also one that exemplifies a successful approach to Q7 (c) on how Christians can promote social and community cohesion.

(b) In my opinion it is not wrong for a christian to be rich because if an individual works hard all his life and uses his qualities to become rich then he deserves his wealth and should love the way he deserves due to his own hard work. If he does not turn his back on God in the process then I believe it is not wrong for a christian to be rich.

Another reason why it is not wrong for a christian to be rich is because he may use this money for good use. For example if he uses much of his wealth to help relieve poverty or for charities, then there is no wrong in his being rich, this is because he is still using it to show love of others.

(c) Christians can work for social and community cohesion by hosting events around the community. This will help promote social cohesion because if lots of people turn up, then it will give people an opportunity to meet new

~~For people~~ people in the local community.

Christians can also work for community cohesion by raising money for ~~different~~ homeless people. This will help build a stronger community because it shows that they are ready to support each other in time of need.

Another way Christians can ~~partake~~ work for community cohesion is by praying for individuals in the community that are in a time of suffering, for example if someone dies. This can help promote cohesion and a stronger community as it helps everyone feel the ~~strong~~ strength of love and support.

Another way Christians can work for community cohesion is by creating sport and youth clubs in the area. This will promote ~~community~~ social cohesion because it gets the children involved as well and ensures they are not forgotten about. However it also strengthens the relationship between the adults as they work to set the club up.

(d)(i) I agree with this statement because it can make you appear to be a hypocrite. For example if you constantly publicise your religion it can make people see this religion as a bit of a mockery and therefore ~~not~~ reject their religious beliefs.

Another reason you should ~~not~~ not display your religion is because it can lead to prejudice attacks from opposing religions, therefore religious beliefs should be kept ~~to~~ quiet and not be displayed at all times.

(ii) Some people may disagree with me because they argue that you should be proud of your religion and you should therefore show this by displaying it.

Another reason some people may disagree with me is because it can lead to an increase of support in your religion and new people may begin to understand your religion and want to join it because you have showed them what it is all about.

Another reason some people may disagree with me is because at Pentecost Jesus gave the disciples the gift of the holy spirit to have the courage to display their religion. Therefore we should follow in their actions by displaying our religion.



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Examiner Comments

7 (b) In this answer there are two developed reasons, and they are the two reasons that candidates used the most in suggesting that it is not wrong for a Christian to be rich.

The first reason is that people are entitled to what they have worked hard to earn, and this is developed with the proviso 'as long as it does not cause them to turn their back on God'.

The second reason is that rich people can support charities, developed by adding that this is a way of showing love for others. 4 marks

7 (c) The notion of working for social and community cohesion is not one that is open to a single interpretation, but it might be summarised as acts that help to draw members of society together, especially in respect of those who are marginalised. Given that definition, many approaches were possible.

In this answer the candidate writes about hosting community events, by helping the poor and homeless, by praying for people in times of suffering, and by strengthening the bond between adults and young people by setting up such things as youth clubs.

Other candidates focused on racial integration and religious tolerance and these would also have been acceptable approaches. 8 marks

7 (d) There is a variety of good answers here. Displaying religion could be a kind of hypocrisy, and it could lead to prejudice. On the other hand, it demonstrates pride in one's faith, it helps to spread religious belief, and it responds to the mission given to the Apostles.

(d)(i) 2 marks (d)(ii) 3 marks



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Examiner Tip

Social and community cohesion is not a concept that most candidates will understand instinctively.

It would help them to respond to the various questions that could be asked if they were provided with a simple definition - that it is to do with bringing people together, especially those who may feel like outcasts for any reason.

It would be useful to have a closer look at an answer to 7 (c) that tried to answer the question, but with less success.

(c) Christians can work for social and community cohesion by following the ten commandments because they show you how to live your life

the best way you can and treat people the best you can and if you do that the you will get along with people and there will be less problems



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Examiner Comments

The immediate thought here is that the candidate does not really know what is meant by social and community cohesion, and that this is a vague and general answer.

In fact, on closer inspection, it does offer two simple but acceptable ideas. People can work for social cohesion by following the commandments. Given that the second part of the commandments concerns how people relate to each other, it is fair to argue that they were formulated to ensure a cohesive society. Also, if people treat each other the best they can, then they will get along. It is a simple thought, but a valid one.

4 marks

Question 8 (a)

This was a very well-answered question, with many candidates knowing that a vocation is a call from God. Some went on to elaborate and provide examples, but this brief definition would have sufficed for both marks. Those who spoke only of a call or calling gained one mark.

This was very well-answered, and many candidates were able to gain full marks

Write your answer here:

(a) a calling from God



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Examiner Comments

Although the definition in the specification adds that the call from God is to 'lead the Christian life', it was decided that 'a call from God' gave the full meaning.

2 marks

All (a) questions have a list of possible partially correct answers in the mark scheme

Write your answer here:

(a) The Calling



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Examiner Comments

Although technically a vocation could be thought of as just a 'calling', in a Religious Studies unit the religious context of the key words is required for full marks.

1 mark

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

This question was answered quite well, but both parts (c) and (d) uncovered some gaps in candidates' understanding.

8 (b) Many candidates knew about the Ten Commandments. Some approached the question with some general reasons, such as that they represent God's law. Others took individual commandments and explained their value. Both approaches were rewarded.

8 (c) There were many good and detailed answers to this question. However, some candidates lacked a detailed knowledge of Jesus' teaching and were only able to offer one or two general ideas about using money to help others. Others could not distinguish the teaching that is included in the Sermon on the Mount, and referred, for example, to the story of the Rich Young Man.

8 (d) As the Golden Rule is quite a simple concept, this question was more of a challenge to those candidates who could not develop their reasons. There was also some confusion about what the Golden Rule actually is, some thinking it to be 'love your neighbour'. Having said that, clearly love of neighbour is at the heart of the Golden Rule and candidates were not automatically penalised for that mistake.

This response exemplifies how some candidates found it difficult to offer full answers to Q8 (c) and Q8 (d).

(c) ~~The Golden Rule~~ Sermon on the Mount explains that people cannot serve 2 masters. God is one master and Money is another. Therefore, people must choose between God and Money.

Additionally, Christ taught that we should give every thing away so that we are purely focused on God.

(d) (i) The Golden Rule tells Christians all they need to know such that they can lead a good life because Christ said that if people followed it, they would also be keeping the Ten Commandments.

Additionally

(ii) Christians can lead a good life if they join a religious order some might say. By doing this they can devote themselves to God and therefore lead a full life.



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Examiner Comments

8 (c) In fact, the candidate focusses well on the Sermon on the Mount, but can only give two ways in which the sermon helps Christians to use money - by not making money your master, and that Jesus taught that we should focus on God.

The reference to giving everything away is probably about the story of the rich young man, which is not in the sermon. But the general idea is present. Given their knowledge of the sermon, it is surprising the candidate could not go on to name more ways. Perhaps this suggests that they did not have a full list of all the relevant teachings clear in their mind. 4 marks

8 (d) This answer highlights the problems some candidates faced with drawing out a full response to a question about such a simple concept.

The candidate says only that Jesus said it would help people live by the commandments, but on the other hand people can live a good life by joining a religious order. Again, it is worth reflecting on why the candidate could not expand on, and develop, such ideas.

(d)(i) 1 mark (d)(ii) 1 mark



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Examiner Tip

It is not right to suggest that candidates be encouraged to learn lists of responses. However, it is important to remember that (c) and (d) questions look for multiple or developed responses.

It would help candidates to construct a basis for their answers if they had a list in their minds of key teachings on money as found in the Sermon on the Mount, and a variety of different thoughts about the Golden Rule.

Here is an example of an answer that gained full marks. It will illustrate how candidates were able to offer a variety of responses to Q8 (c) and Q8 (d)

(b) Yes the 10 commandments help people live better lives. Firstly because of the commandment 'keeping the ~~sabbath~~ ^{sabbath} day holy.' This commandment makes people want to go to mass ~~and~~ every week. By going to mass you receive the penitential rite at the beginning which ~~helps~~ strengthens your bonds with God and society. This makes it easier to live better lives.

Secondly because of the commandment 'Thou shall not kill.' This will make people avoid killing which is firstly against the law and secondly a mortal sin. This would mean people go to hell so they avoid it and live good lives.

(c) The sermon on the mount helps christians to use money correctly. Firstly by explaining about charity. If you wish to give money to charity, Jesus said to do it in secret. This way you use money for

the love of God, not the love of public praise.

Secondly because of the teaching 'The poor will inherit the world.' This helps people use money correctly as they do not focus on material possessions. They focus on loving God and will not ~~focus~~ zone in on money.

Thirdly, because of the teaching of trusting God, Jesus said that we should not worry about earthly possessions and finance as we should trust God. God knows every one of us so he has a plan for us and will protect us.

Finally, because of putting money before God, Jesus said that you cannot love God and money. He said you must either love God and despise money, or vice versa. This teaches us to not worry about money but love God.

- (d) (i) ~~the golden rule~~ I agree the Golden rule tells Christians all we need to know about living a good life. Firstly because of violence. You would not physically abuse someone if you follow this rule and therefore live following the sermon on the mount teaching of 'turn the other cheek.' Secondly because of salvation. If you follow the golden rule you will help the sick and feed the hungry. ^{The church teaches} ~~this means~~ that you ~~will be~~ ^{would be} a sheep in the parable of the sheep and goats so therefore live a good life and achieve salvation. Thirdly because of charity. The sermon on the mount teaches us to share our wealth. The golden rule will make someone help the poor, this following Jesus.
- (ii) Someone may disagree with me, firstly because of ~~the~~ modern medical advances. The golden rule doesn't cover how to react to things such as condoms or IVF. The church disagrees with these but living only by the golden rule would mean you wouldn't

know if you should accept them. Secondly because of the eucharist. Following the golden rule alone would mean you don't go to mass and receive the eucharist. The church teaches the eucharist must be received weekly to achieve salvation. Thirdly because of baptism. If you only live by the golden rule, you may not be baptised and therefore cannot achieve salvation.



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Examiner Comments

8 (b) This approach to the question about the Ten Commandments is unusual but wholly valid. The candidate names two commandments in turn and explains their value. In each case these are developed reasons. 4 marks

8 (c) This candidate has clear in their mind the key features of the teaching on money found in the Sermon on the Mount. They speak about giving to charity, they refer to one of the relevant Beatitudes, they mention the need to put trust in God not earthly possessions, and they highlight the teaching about a conflict between loving God and loving money. 8 marks

8 (d) The first part of this answer is a very inventive approach. The candidate takes three aspects of Christian life (violence, how to ensure salvation, and charity) and shows how the Golden Rule helps to guide one's actions. On the negative side, the candidate highlights a few aspects of Christian life that cannot necessarily be answered by the Golden Rule - the attitude to IVF and other medical developments, of the need to go to church and worship, and of the need to be baptised to achieve salvation.

(d)(i) 3 marks (d)(ii) 3 marks



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Examiner Tip

Future candidates may find this approach to answering Q8 (d) very helpful - how to take a simple concept and yet construct a full answer.

Paper Summary

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

- In part (a) questions, a large number of successful candidates had learnt the glossary definition of key words. Some of them are not easily paraphrased even by the most able candidates.
- In part (b) questions the key advice again this year is that candidates are aware of how their answers can be developed, which is an essential requirement for full marks.
- In part (c) questions, candidates will often benefit from having a full, detailed understanding of the teachings and therefore the ability to offer multiple approaches. Most candidates gain full marks from giving three or four reasons, with some development. The ability to gain full marks with one reason comprehensively developed is rare.
- In part (d) questions candidates need to have a clear idea of how they might offer a detailed set of arguments on **both** sides of all the topics in the specification. It is undoubtedly easier for some topics than for others, but, as has been seen in the examples quoted, it is possible to do so on all topics.
- Too many marks are still being lost due to rubric error. Some candidates have adopted the advice of crossing out the question they are not answering, and it is a successful approach.
- Specifically in respect of the questions this year the advice can also be summarised briefly:
- A religious community in the context of the specification is what is generally understood as a Religious Order: any group of people who live a life consecrated to God, in community.
- Some historical background to the Reformation might help some candidates understand Protestant beliefs more clearly.
- In the context of the specification, candidates should understand Holy Week and Easter as separate, if related, events.
- Candidates will benefit from a simple definition of social and community cohesion.
- In the topics in the specification that refer to the Sermon on the Mount, only answers that refer to teachings found there can be rewarded.

Congratulations once again to all teachers. Overall, students were prepared very well for this examination, and there were some really quite outstanding answers.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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