

Examiners' Report

June 2014

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS16 01

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Introduction

This specification is now well-established, being the fifth year in which it has been examined.

Centres should now be familiar with the layout and weighting of the paper. For the second year an addition of four possible marks has been awarded for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG). This is awarded in Section 1 (Question (Q)1 or Q2) only.

Unit 16 is the unit which 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 Edexcel Religious Studies 'suite' of papers which is a textually-based paper.

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

In general, Q1 as a whole was quite well-done. Most candidates were able to answer 1(a), 1(b) and 1(d) without any difficulty. 1(c) did provide challenges for some candidates, who did not always write about problems of discipleship, but about problems of belief and therefore lost marks.

This is an example of an almost full-mark answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) Service is helping others and putting their needs into practice.

(b) The disciples do show Christians how to live today because they completely trusted Jesus and left everything they had to follow Jesus. Many of them were not wealthy and they were just as ordinary as any modern Christian but they still decided to follow Jesus. Disciples also show Christians how to live today because even when they did fail in Jesus' eyes they ~~also~~ always asked for forgiveness of sins. This is a good example for modern Christians because it shows them that no sin is major enough to overcome God's forgiveness, and even when the disciples did fail Jesus still loved them. So surely he would still love us when we ~~do~~ ^{do} wrong.

(c) The problems of discipleship are shown in the account of the ~~the~~ ~~spoke~~ spirit casted out of the boy because the disciples showed very little faith in what Jesus had told them to do.

The fact that they had little faith that they could cast out the evil spirit from the boy was seen as a failure because without faith in Jesus' word they couldn't accomplish anything. They were also unable to see faith in the boy which meant that the evil spirit still remained in him. The fact that they had little faith also meant that the disciples must have been scared of the evil spirits even though Jesus had already given them his power. The fact that they doubted the power given to them by Jesus ~~the~~ could be seen as a failure of their actual opinions of the identity of Jesus, since he is the son of God, his power is above any evil spirit. But unfortunately the disciples failed to acknowledge this. The fact that the disciples often questioned Jesus about their authority also meant that they had little faith in what Jesus had told them. They didn't have spiritual minds and had failed to achieve ~~the~~ ~~of the~~ ~~main~~ their task. ~~The~~ When Jesus had to take over and cast out the evil spirit from the boy, this made the disciples feel guilty about the way they doubted Jesus. They were also seen as failure in Jesus' eyes.

I disagree with this because
 (d) (i) Many Christians today believe that it is not difficult to be a disciple of Jesus today ^{mainly} because it is much more easier to spread the word of God to people and it is much more safer to spread the word.

that it was back in Jesus time. Another reader why I disagree with this is because it is difficult to give up unnecessary things that we have in our modern world. ~~another~~ I also disagree with this because as a disciple it is our duty to serve others and in the modern world there are many ways in which as a Christian we can achieve this.

(iii) some people may disagree and say that many people in the modern world would not give up ~~their~~ everything to follow Jesus as we have so much to give up. Others may ~~not~~ feel that Jesus is asking for too much when he says that we should forget about our blood family and only focus on our true family in Christ. Others may not believe in being lost and serving others as they want to be first in everything in the modern society.



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Examiner Comments

This response should not need a full explanation of why it was awarded the marks it was given.

1(a) Fully correct answer

1(b) Two developed reasons were given

1(c) A comprehensive explanation was given, leading it to level 4 and the higher of two marks awarded as it was a coherent answer

1(d)(i) Three valid reasons were given

1(d)(ii) Two reasons, with one of them developed, were given

SPaG There were some errors, therefore it was awarded 3 marks.



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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 could lose many marks.

This next answer is an example of one where part (c) spoiled an otherwise good answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) Service means doing something for others.

(b) Yes, because Jesus taught ~~to~~ the disciples how to live proper Christian lives and he told them to teach it to others and as Christians we should follow Jesus' teaching.

✖ No, because the way they lived then is different ~~to~~ how things are now, so the circumstances are different, for instance Christians aren't persecuted anymore. So we are not very alike.

(c) The problems of discipleship is shown in the account of the spirit cast of the boy. The reason this causes problems is because, if God is omni-benevolent

(all-loving) ~~then~~ then why does he not cure everyone.

Another reason it causes problems is because if God is omni-potent, then ~~then~~ why is people still suffering, if God was all powerfull, why does he not use his power to cure illness or stop illness.

all together.

Also it causes problems because if God is omni-scient ~~then~~ (all-knowing) then why doesn't he know how to cure the world of sickness. Also why doesn't he know how much suffering and pain people feel when their loved ones or themselves are sick or in pain.

Finally it causes problems because it is not scientifically proven. Some may say that the boy was suffering from ~~an~~ some sort of medically proven attack such as epilepsies. This could lead people to believe that it was not a miracle and it happened by chance.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement because as long as Christians follow the teachings of Jesus, they are already being good Christians. Such as loving others like you love yourself as Jesus taught us in the bible.

I disagree with the statement because I think that when we help other, even if it is a small thing, we are being good disciples, because we are following Jesus teaching that to be great in the eyes of God, you have to be servant to others.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me because in the story about the rich man asking how he can get into heaven, Jesus tells him to give up his riches. People may find this hard to do, especially in a society that says that ~~the~~ money will make you happier.

Some people may disagree with me because they may find it difficult to love everyone, especially if that person has done something wrong to them.



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1(a) This was a correct definition although phrased differently from the mark scheme. It was awarded the maximum 2 marks.

1(b) This gained 4 marks for two developed reasons. The first reason is 'Jesus taught how to live proper Christian lives - developed by 'we should follow Jesus' teaching.' The second reason is the way they lived is different, which is developed by the example given of persecution.

1(c) This was awarded 0 marks. This was because it did not answer the question. There is nothing in this answer about discipleship - following Jesus.

1(d)(i) This gained 3 marks for two reasons with one of them developed. The first reason is 'If they are following teaching they are good Christians' - developed by 'such as loving others.' The second reason is when we help others we are being good Christians.

1(d)(ii) This answer gives one developed reason. Jesus tells him to give up his riches - developed by - 'people may find this hard to do.'



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Always make sure that you read the question carefully and understand what is being asked of you.

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

Q2 was a more popular choice than Q1, being chosen by nearly twice as many candidates. Generally, it was also answered better.

This is a good example of a full-mark question.

2(c) was the most difficult part on this question with many candidates often drifting away from Peter's denial and writing more generally about problems of discipleship.

Write your answer here:

(a) Levi - The ~~first~~ ~~5th~~ 5th Apostle, who was previously a tax collector, before Jesus asked him to follow him.

(b) No, I do not think loving your family is more important than serving God. Firstly, God is our Father and the creator of life so he is also in your family. ~~so this means you~~

Secondly, God gave you the most precious gift possible, life; so this means that he should be put first in your priorities, even the ~~most~~ ^{very} important ones like loving your family.

(c) Peter's denial shows the problems of discipleship in many ways. Firstly, Peter's Denial shows ~~it~~ how hard it is to profess your faith in a society who think and believe different.

Also, his denial of Jesus can be seen as betrayal and ~~is~~ since it was done by someone so close to Jesus it could be seen as a sign of weakness and that makes it hard to

Follow Jesus

Peter was the ~~first~~ one Jesus chose to build his church and if he leaves Jesus and denies him three times what kind of example does that set for Christians to look up to.

If someone so near to Jesus runs when the going gets tough that may teach some people to leave their faith during hard times

However, some people think Peter was chosen to show his disciples were not perfect and this ~~religion~~ faith was not just for the perfect, it was for everyone

(d) (i) ~~I~~ I disagree with the above statement as ~~it shows~~ Mark's Gospel shows that they were failures when they were unable to cast out the demons from the boy. Secondly, the disciples were not there when Jesus needed as they fell asleep at the garden of Gethsemane and they ran away at the foot of the cross

(iii) However, people may disagree with me by saying that they were not failures as they preached the Good News and it is because of them Christianity exists today.

Secondly, the disciples were not failures as they gave up everything when asked by Jesus and that they died preaching Jesus' word.



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Examiner Comments

2(a) This is a correct definition although phrased differently from the mark scheme. Most candidates seemed to know who Levi was. This was awarded 2/2.

2(b) This answer gives two developed reasons. The first reason is that God is our father and this is developed by saying 'so he is also in your family.' The second reason is 'God gave you life' which is developed by 'he should be put first in your priorities.'

This question was awarded 4/4.

2(c) This answer achieved Level 4 for giving four valid ways that the problems of discipleship were shown.

1. Shows how hard it is to profess your faith
2. His denial can be seen as betrayal
3. If Peter denies him what kind of example does that set
4. It may teach some people to leave their faith during hard times

This answer was awarded 8/8 marks being given the higher of the two marks for Level 4 because the answer is coherent

2(d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three reasons:

They were unable to cast out the demon

They fell asleep in Gethsemane

They ran away

Awarded 3/3 marks

2(d)(ii) The candidate gives two reasons with one developed

They preached the Good News (developed by) because of them Christianity exists today

They gave up everything

Awarded 3/3 marks

There were very few errors in Spelling Punctuation and Grammar and so it was awarded 4/4



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Examiner Tip

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

Question 3 (a)

Q3(a) Whilst most candidates answered this question correctly, there were too many who had not learnt who the scribes were. All candidates should learn the glossary definitions of the key words to ensure full marks.

3(a) This is a fully correct answer.

(a) Religious lawyers; originally men who copied out the Torah.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

3(a) This answer receives 2 marks as a fully correct answer. This is the glossary definition of 'Scribes'.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions of the key words, to be sure of gaining the full marks.

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

Q3 b,c,d was slightly less popular than Q4 b,c,d.

Q3 (c) proved difficult for several candidates because they concentrated on 'conflict', overlooking the fact that the question was asking about disagreements about the meaning of the law causing the conflict.

This is a full mark answer showing good practice in how to gain full marks.

(b) I do not think that Jesus wanted to cause trouble because Jesus' nature is not to be troublesome, but to be humble and peaceful. Since Jesus was the son of God it was his duty to protect the temple and make sure that it was respected so that all the nations could gather in worship in the temple. Jesus simply acted in this way to show us that he truly was the son of God and that the temple should be used as a place of worship. Also the fact that Jesus was humble and always told the truth angered the authority and the priest. It wasn't his intention to, but instead it was their anger towards Jesus that led to trouble.

(c) Disagreements about the law led to conflict mainly because the Pharisees and Sadducees believed in keeping the Jewish faith alive and strictly following the Jewish laws precisely.

The fact that Jesus quoted that the Sabbath was made for men, not man for the Sabbath, angered them as they believed that the Sabbath should be a day of rest but instead Jesus went ahead and healed a paralysed man. The law also ~~led~~^{got} to conflict because Jesus often questioned the Jews about doing good or doing evil on the Sabbath which also angered them. The fact that the disciples picked grain on the Sabbath also led to conflict as this angered the authority.

The Law on Ritual Cleanliness also led to conflict because Jesus and the disciples went against this law and Jesus also quoted that 'It is not what goes into a man that makes him unclean, but what comes out of him.' Jesus believed that the Pharisees ~~are~~^{were} hypocrites as they only went by laws and not the actual teaching of Jesus - this also led to conflict.

In the Jewish Torah they believed that sinners were those who went against laws in the Torah. The fact that Jesus dined with sinners and tax collectors led to conflict because the authority and high priests believe that only God could forgive sins not Jesus.

(d) (i) Jesus was not wrong for entering Jerusalem the way he did because he was a king and this was the only acceptable humble way that a king could enter in Jerusalem. Also this would have confirmed the prophecies that Jesus was the Messiah, which was said in the Old Testament. Also Jesus was the

son of God so it was right that people
praised him when he entered Jerusalem

(iii) Some people may disagree and say that a
true king wouldn't enter on a colts back.
Others may say that he was hastening because
he wasn't the Messiah.

Some people may say that entering this way
would have led to conflict with the high
priest as they didn't believe that he was
the Messiah, this would lead to jealousy and
conflict.



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Examiner Comments

3(b) This answer had two developed reasons.

Reason 1 – Jesus' nature is not to be troublesome

Development – but to be humble and peaceful

Reason 2 – It was his duty to protect the Temple

Development – Since he was the Son of God

In the second reason, the development comes before the reason.

This is perfectly acceptable. It happens quite often in this
paper, particularly when passages from the gospel are used as
development.

4/4 marks awarded

3(c) This is a fully developed coherent reason.

Pharisees and Sadducees believe in following Jewish laws strictly
(developed by) quote about Sabbath made for man; Healing on the
Sabbath (man with paralysed hand); picking grain on the Sabbath.

8/8 marks awarded

3(d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three
reasons.

He was a king

Confirmed Messianic prophecies

He was Son of God so people were right to praise him

Awarded 3/3 marks

3(d)(ii) The candidate gives three reasons why someone may
disagree with them.

King wouldn't enter on a colt

Jesus was not Messiah

It would lead to conflict

Awarded 3/3 marks

Question 4 (a)

Q4 (a) This question proved to be probably the easiest of the (a) questions to answer. Very few candidates got it wrong. Everyone seemed to know what is meant by sinners.

4(a) This answer is typical of many answers given for this question.

(a) Sinners are people who do not follow
all Jewish laws.



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Examiner Comments

4(a) This is the glossary definition of sinners so gains 2/2 marks.

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

Q4 b,c,d Although this question was more popular than Q3 b,c,d, it was less well answered - largely due to Q4 (c) being answered particularly badly.

Very many candidates failed to recognise that the question was about a specific passage. 'The argument about authority' is a specific bullet point in the specification and refers to the passage in Mark 11:27-33. Very many candidates wrote about arguments over authority generally. However when candidates recognised the incident, it was generally well answered as in the example below.

This is a well-written full mark answer that acts as a good model for candidates.

(b) I believe that Jesus was right to cleanse the Temple. I believe this because ~~the~~ Temple was a holy and sacred place and it was his father's home and the ~~things~~ thieves and robbers were ~~there~~ desecrating it.

On the other hand, he was wrong because he probably knew that performing this act showed that he had the authority to do so which would lead the Pharisees to questioning him on his actions, leading to conflict.

(c) The argument about authority may have led to conflict because Jesus questioned the Pharisees about whether the baptism was an act of heaven or by man. ~~Question~~ This question was the first thing

that may have led to conflict, due to being rude.

Secondly, if the Pharisees had answered that it was an act of heaven then they would have admitted that Jesus was right and would have been publicly shamed. But if they had said man then people would become angry because they believed that John the Baptist was a prophet. Picking one of these two answers may have led to conflict between the people, the Pharisees and Jesus.

Finally, due to them not answering, they were left ashamed and this fuelled their resentment towards Jesus thus forth leading to conflict between the Pharisees and Jesus.

(d) (i) The woman as I believe the woman at Bethany should have anointed Jesus. I firstly believe this because anointing him showed that he was the 'Messiah', 'the anointed one'.

Secondly, I believe that she should have anointed Jesus because being anointed showed him to be like a king and how kings were anointed before death further predicting his Passion.

(iii) ~~the~~ People may disagree saying that she should not have because Jesus himself had told everyone to sell everything they had and give it to the poor. This therefore went against his teachings.

Also, she should not have because it was very expensive and she could have sold it and lived on the money. Jesus allowing her showed him to be a little selfish contradicting himself.



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Examiner Comments

(b) Two developed reasons are given.

Reason 1 – Temple was a holy place

Development – thieves desecrated it

Reason 2 – He had the authority to do so

Development – could lead to conflict

Awarded 4/4 marks

(c) Four reasons are given, making this a full mark answer coherently written.

Jesus questioned the Pharisees about the baptism which was rude

The Pharisees could have been publicly shamed by their possible answer

People could have become angry by their possible answer.

Not answering left them ashamed

Awarded 8/8 marks

(d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three reasons.

Showed he was Messiah

Showed him to be like a king

Anointing predicted his passion

Awarded 3/3 marks

(d)(ii) The candidate gives two reasons with one developed.

It went against Jesus' teaching (developed by) Jesus said to sell everything and give to the poor

It was very expensive

Awarded 3/3 marks



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Examiner Tip

Always read the question carefully and make sure that you know what is being asked of you.

Question 5 (a)

Q5 (a) Most candidates had some idea of Passover but did not always get the full two marks. Most knew that there was something about a meal, but quite a few did not link it with the Jews' escape from Egypt, which was needed for a full mark answer.

The two examples given below were both full mark answers - but answered in different ways.

write your answer here:

(a) The Passover is the celebration of Moses and the slaves' escape, from Egypt, celebrated each year by Jews with a Passover meal.



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Examiner Comments

This is a correct definition and therefore awarded 2/2 marks.

write your answer here:

(a) The Jewish celebration of their escape from Egypt.



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Examiner Comments

This is a correct definition and therefore awarded 2/2 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Learn the glossary definitions of the key words to be sure of gaining the full marks.

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

Two examples of Q5 b,c,d are presented here - one which could have been improved a little and one which is a full mark answer.

This is a less-than-perfect (although good) answer, with some indications as to how it might have been improved.

(b) I do think Judas was right to betray Jesus as if he hadn't then Jesus would not have been crucified and died for our sins and completed ~~his~~ his passion. Also it was Jesus' purpose to be killed as a sign of God's love.

(c) The trial ~~at the~~ before the high priest was important because:

Firstly, it showed how unfairly

treated Jesus was as the ~~two~~ men giving evidence could hear each other which ~~to~~ made the trial very unfair which is important as it showed how desperately they wanted rid of Jesus.

Secondly, it led to Jesus revealing himself as the Messiah to the Sanhedrin, which gave the Jewish leaders evidence to send him to Pontius Pilate for blasphemy.

Also,

(d) (i) ~~The~~ The resurrection is important as in Christianity this is one of the most important events, Jesus ~~over~~ overcoming evil by defeating death. It also shows God's approval of Jesus as God accepts Jesus as he has completed his task on ~~earth~~ earth.

(ii) Some may disagree as they believe that the resurrection did not happen due to their being no scientific proof that anybody can ~~rise~~ be resurrected. Also



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

5(b) This answer produces one valid developed reason.

Reason – If he hadn't then Jesus would not have been crucified

Development – completed his passion

The second reason given here is invalid because it does not relate directly to Judas and what he did. If another valid reason (eg talking about Judas being paid for his betrayal and then developing that) had been given then this would have been awarded full marks.

Awarded 2/4 marks

(c) Two developed reasons, coherently presented.

Showed how unfairly Jesus was treated (developed by) shows how desperate they were to get rid of him.

Led to Jesus revealing himself as the Messiah (developed by) gave them the evidence (needed) to send him to Pontius Pilate for blasphemy

Awarded 8/8 marks

(d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three reasons.

One of the most important events

Overcoming evil by defeating death

Shows God's approval of Jesus

3/3 marks

(d)(ii) The candidate gives one developed reason.

Resurrection did not happen (developed) no scientific proof

If another valid reason had been given (eg maybe the disciples stole the body) then this would have been awarded full marks.

Awarded 2/3 marks

This is a full mark answer given as an example of a good answer.

(b) No, I don't think Judas was right to betray Jesus ~~betray~~ because Jesus took him in and taught him things and also chose him to be one of his 12 apostles, how could he betray Jesus after everything Jesus done for Judas. However I also think that it was right it had to happen somehow if it wouldn't have been Judas it could have been one of the other disciples to do it, Judas had no other choice but to do it.

(c) The trial before the High Priest was important because lots of different things happened at the trial. For example it was the first time Jesus had ever said that he was

the Son of God, he responded to the direct question that one of the court said 'Are you the Son of God?' and Jesus said 'I am' just like God said at the burning bush 'I am the father of Elijah'. This also fulfilled the prophecies.

Another reason why trial before the High Priest was important is because it was unfair. First the trial took place at night with no witnesses also the full ^{religious} court was not there only a few who were enemies of Jesus.

During the trial all of Jesus' eyewitnesses were false and they all had fake accounts of things that did not actually happen. The High priest when Jesus said he was the Son of God ripped his cloak into

(d) (i) I disagree because the resurrection showed that Jesus fulfilled the ^{ultimate} prophecy and that anything else prophesied will come true.

The resurrection also showed Jesus' power of God in him, for him resurrected himself. It also shows that ~~life after death~~ there is life after death, and that there is a place we have to go to after death.

(iii) Some may disagree with me because they believe that life after death is not possible and that the resurrection ~~is~~ story is just a symbol ~~something~~ that symbolises something. Some also don't believe that ~~life after~~ the resurrection is important because they don't actually believe in God.



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5(b) Two developed reasons given.

Reason 1 – Jesus chose him to be one of the 12

Development – how could he betray Jesus after everything he did for him

Reason 2 – It was right it had to happen

Development – If not Judas then one of the others

Awarded 4/4 marks

(c) Two developed coherent reasons.

It was the first time Jesus had said he was the Son of God (developed by) Quotations

It was unfair (developed by) examples of the unfairness

Awarded 8/8 marks

(d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three reasons.

Jesus fulfilled the prophecy

Showed the power of God in him

Shows life after death

Awarded 3/3 marks

(d)(ii) The candidate gives three reasons.

Believe life after death not possible

Some don't believe in God

Just a symbol

Awarded 3/3 marks



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

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

Question 6 (a)

Q6 (a) Generally candidates had some knowledge about what the High Priest was. It was both a religious and a political/ judicial role at the time of Jesus, and so examiners looked for evidence of this knowledge in the answer. The two examples shown here are a fully correct answer and a partially correct answer.

(a) The high priest was the priest who was at the top of the table and who was the head of the jewish ~~represent~~ council and laws.



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6(a) This is a fully correct definition although phrased differently from the mark scheme.

Awarded 2/2 marks

write your answer here:

(a) The High priest is the man in charge of the Jewish temple and is head of the temple too like the Pope.



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6(a) This is a partially correct answer as shown in the mark scheme. Headship of the temple does not really indicate the full extent of his religious role.

Awarded 1/2

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

Q6 b,c,d Generally this question was quite well done, although some candidates did tend to confuse crucifixion and resurrection.

Q6 b,c,d. This is an example of a good, but not full mark, answer.

(b) I think pontius pilate was a weak leader because he did not do anything useful to help the people, he let the crowd controll him.

Also the reason he was weak is because he let an innocent man get crucified so he was not doing his job properly, he instead let a serial killer go to go just because the crowd told him too.

(c) The meaning of resurrection is when jesus woke up from the dead and help open the doors to Gods kingdom so we can live eternally. This helped christians have a stronger faith in God

because what he did for us.

Also Jesus resurrected Jarius daughter which helped us christians to have a stronger faith, this is significant because it helps us to believe that anything is possible if you believe in God.

The resurrection also signifies the forgiveness of sins because of God dying for us it has helped for our sins to be forgiven so we can live a happier life in Gods world and go to heaven.

The resurrection also shows that God is omni-potent, omniscient and omni-benevolent because he has the ability to raise someone from the dead and the resurrection also helps us to have more faith in God as he will help us to live eternally if we follow his teachings.

(d) (i) I agree because the resurrection was part of God's divine plan so it had to happen to complete his plan and to save us.

Also it ~~helps~~ shows us what Jesus went through to help us and for our sins to be forgiven so it helps increase our faith.

The crucifixion also shows us that God is real and what good he can do and how much he cared for us.

(ii) Some people may disagree because they think that Jesus did not have to die and it could have been sorted out without anyone dying.

Also some people may disagree because they say if God is so powerful why did he make the crucifixion happen as he controls everything which happens.

~~some~~ The crucifixion might not ~~of~~ happened in some
people's opinion so they do not believe in Jesus
dying and believe it happened a different way.



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Examiner Comments

6(b) Two reasons with one developed.

Reason 1 – He let the crowd control him

Reason 2 – He let an innocent man get crucified

Development – He let a serial killer go free

If the first reason had been developed (eg 'so that they got their own way'), then this answer would have gained full marks.

Awarded 3/4 marks

(c) Three coherent reasons with one developed.

He opened the doors to God's kingdom so we can live eternally

He raised Jairus daughter so helping Christians have a stronger faith

Shows God is omnipotent (developed by) he has the ability to raise the dead

Awarded 8/8 marks

(d)(i)

The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three reasons.

Part of God's divine plan

For our sins to be forgiven

Shows how much God cares for us

Awarded 3/3 marks

(d)(ii)

The candidate gives two reasons.

Could have been sorted out without anyone dying

Why did God make the crucifixion happen

If another reason had been given (eg Jesus had done nothing wrong to merit a death sentence) then this answer would have been awarded full marks.

Awarded 2/3 marks



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Examiner Tip

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

Question 7 (a)

7(a) As always with these key words which give one of the titles for Jesus (Messiah, Son of Man, Son of God), there is often confusion in the candidates' minds. The only remedy for this is to learn the glossary definitions of these titles.

7(a) This is an example of a correct definition of the Messiah.

Write your answer here:

(a) Messiah means the anointed ~~one~~ and chosen one.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

7(a) Correct definition as shown in the mark scheme.
Awarded 2/2 marks

Q7 (a) This is an example of a partially correct answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) the person who would free the Jews from Roman rule.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Q7 (a) This is a partially correct answer as shown in the mark scheme.

Although someone who would free the Jews from Roman rule was a popular view of the Messiah at the time of Jesus, it is not what the term 'Messiah' means.

Awarded 1/2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

'Messiah', 'Son of man' and 'Son of God' are not interchangeable terms.

Make sure that you learn the glossary definitions so that you can use these terms correctly.

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

Section 4 - The Identity of Jesus - has historically tended to be the weakest section. This year was no different. Q7 was nearly four times as popular as Q8.

One of the major problems in this section was the way that candidates seem to regard the titles of Jesus (Messiah, Son of God, Son of Man) as being interchangeable. Candidates need to learn the differences between these concepts.

In Q7 b,c,d it was difficult to find full mark answers. This example is used to illustrate how answers could be improved.

In Q7 (c), quite a few candidates answered using healing or resurrection miracles. They need to be aware of what Nature Miracles are (a key word).

(b) I think that Jesus was able to cast out evil spirits from Legion because Jesus was the son of God and had power to help people, because God gave him that power.

Other reason is that Jesus was strong enough to cast out evil spirits because his faith was strong and he was there to help others, but he was also powerful to control nature.

(c) The nature miracles show that Jesus has power over nature so he could easily control it, therefore he is a son of God.

The nature miracles show that Jesus is powerful and is able to do everything therefore he is the Son of Man.

(d) (i) I don't agree because it is impossible to feed five thousand people with loaves and two fish.

Other reason is that no human being would be able to do that because it's impossible.

Also even though Jesus was powerful

it is hard to believe that he could have feed people with that amount of food.

(ii) Some people may disagree with my answer because they might think that Jesus was powerful and he could everything.

Other people might say that it was a miracle created by Jesus.



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Examiner Comments

7(b) Two reasons with one developed.

Reason 1 – Jesus was the Son of God

Development – He had power to help people

Reason 2 – His faith was strong

If the second reason had been developed (eg because he trusted in the authority God had given him), it would have been awarded full marks.

Awarded 3/4 marks

(c) Two undeveloped, coherent reasons given.

Jesus has power over nature

Son of God

This answer would have been greatly improved by illustrating it with relevant examples of Nature Miracles (eg Feeding the Five Thousand; Stilling the Storm on the Lake etc).

Awarded 4/8 marks

(d)(i)

The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by one reason.

It is impossible

This would have been improved either by showing why it was impossible (the rest of the answer does not do this, it simply repeats that it is impossible), or by using other examples.

Awarded 1/3 marks

(d)(ii)

The candidate gives one reason.

Jesus was powerful

Again, the candidate needs to expand on the idea of Jesus being powerful - giving examples for instance, or by using other characteristics of Jesus.

Awarded 1/3 marks



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

(b) questions. The question only asks for what you think. You should not give two sides to an argument (unlike in the (d) questions) unless you cannot make up your mind and can argue your point of view from both sides. But both reasons must be your point of view.

Question 8 (a)

Write your answer here:

(a) A cleansing of sins by being purified in water.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

8 (a) This is a correct answer.

Awarded 2/2 marks

(a) Having your sins forgiven and washed away by being immersed in holy water.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

8 (a) This is a correct answer.

Awarded 2/2 marks

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

Q8 b,c,d As has already been mentioned, this question was much less popular than question Q7 b,c,d. However, it was probably answered better than Q7.

The biggest error on this question came on Q8 (c) where too many candidates confused Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi with Peter saying sorry (either generally or after his denial of Jesus). Candidates should be able to identify this (pivotal) incident in Mark's Gospel.

Q8 b,c,d This is an example of an almost full mark answer (just one mark short in (d)(ii)), given as an example of good practice.

(b) I believe ~~it is~~ he didn't, one reason is that the image of a human ordering a relentless storm to stop is too much and impossible. It is against nature.

Also I believe the calming of the storm to be metaphorical. The disciples in the boat represent the church and the storm represents any problems or hardships. When the disciples asked Jesus to save them and he does, it is equivalent to us praying to God in church for help. Perhaps to help a friend to be healed.

(c) Peter's confession tells people that ~~was~~ Jesus was actually the messiah which means Christ. This tells people that he is the son of God but for political reasons he ^{would} ~~was~~ not call ^{himself} ~~that~~.

as he would be accused of blasphemy. This tells people that Jesus exerts caution but has stronger feelings about what he is thought of.

Also we know Jesus to be a "suffering servant" and not a "political warrior". The Jews wanted a Messiah to overthrow the Romans but Jesus was someone who was ready to suffer because of other people's sins and he knew his destiny. The fact this foreshadows his death shows Jesus knew the scriptures very well.

Jesus' was then angry to Peter as he did not truly understand his role of messiah. This shows Jesus' human side and how he

is also human as well, prone to human emotions.

(d)(i) I agree, one reason is that he had ^{divine} power and he was able to resurrect himself in the bible so why not others? There was a passage which tells us he raised a dead girl from death in the bible which shows there are written records of it happening.

(ii) Some may disagree as it is against nature to bring someone back from the dead. Other stories may occurred because of medical conditions so this may also be one of them times.

Also other stories were written symbolically, Jesus may not have physically brought her back to life but the word of God gave the girl a new meaning of life and a reborn christian.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Q8 (b) Two developed reasons.

Reason 1 – The image ... is too much and impossible

Development – It is against nature

Reason 2 – It is metaphorical

Development – The explanation of the metaphor

Awarded 4/4 marks

(c) Two features are given with one fully developed.

Jesus was actually the Messiah (developed by) but for political reasons would not call himself that (further developed by)

he would be accused of Blasphemy

Jesus has human emotions

(d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three reasons.

He had divine power

He raised himself so why not others

He raised a girl from death

Awarded 3/3 marks

(d)(ii) The candidate gives two reasons.

Against nature

Stories written symbolically

Another mark could have been awarded by (eg) reference to times when Jesus had raised people - Jairus' daughter for instance.

Awarded 2/2 marks

Paper Summary

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

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



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