

Examiners' Report

June 2014

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS02 01

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Introduction

The Edexcel GCSE specification Unit 2 continues to be a very popular course as teachers and schools recognise the benefits of an examinable course that both educates and engages young people. The variety of choice within this specification allows teachers to teach the course that most suits the needs of their candidates.

5RS02 is becoming increasingly popular. It offers the first part of the full GCSE and can be cashed in for a short course if centres require this. It offers a study of Christianity; many centres have found that this can be delivered in a reduced amount of time as much of the background Christian teaching can be covered at Key Stage 3 in preparation. The course addresses many moral and spiritual issues affecting young people today.

The candidates have achieved a wide range of performance levels as would be expected from an examination with many whole cohort entries.

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

In Section One of the examination 'Believing in God', question 1 was more popular than question 2. Although overall candidates who opted for question 2 scored higher marks.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet points:

The main features of a Christian upbringing and how it may lead to belief in God.

How religious experiences, as seen in the numinous, conversion, miracles and prayer, may lead to belief in God.

How Christians respond to scientific explanations of the origins of the world.

(a) Give two examples of natural evil.

The majority of candidates gained full marks for this question, giving examples such as earthquakes. Where candidates did not gain full marks it was because they gave a definition rather than examples.

(b) Do you think a religious upbringing leads to belief in God?

Candidates responded positively to this question and many gave developed reasons. Where it was answered less well, candidates had a lack of understanding of how upbringing contributes to the development of personal beliefs.

(c) Explain how Christians respond to the scientific explanations of the origins of the universe.

Candidates struggled with this question; many confused causation with design and did not answer the question. Some candidates outlined the causation argument but failed to explain how this was a Christian response.

(d) "Religious experiences prove that God exists"

Many candidates misunderstood the (d) statement and responded answered prayers and numinous experiences offered proof. Many candidates went away from the question and answered to why God did or did not exist.

Write your answer here:

(a)

2 examples of natural evil are a volcano and another would be an earthquake.

(b)

I think that religious upbringing may lead to the belief in God, depending on what religion you are brought up with.

If you are brought up around a ~~chris~~ christian

family, you will be more likely to be christian. whereas if you are brought up around a religion that does not believe in God then you will be more likely not to.

Also if you have a near death experience or something else linked to God, this may lead you into the belief in a God.

(d) (i) I do not ^{agree} ~~think~~ that religious experiences ~~can~~ prove Gods existence, because there is no proof that ~~it~~ Someone actually had a religious experience, or wheather their making it up. Also they might not be in a fit state of mind to be sure about wheather they had a religious experience.

Some people may disagree with me as they may claim to have had a ~~near~~ religious experience, they may claim to have had a prayer answered, or may claim to have had a near death experience, So therefore they are entitled to disagree.

(ii)
Some people may disagree with me as they may claim to have had a religious experience, they may claim to have had a prayer answered, or ~~had a near~~ claim to have had a near death experience, ~~so~~ So therefore they are entitled to disagree.



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Examiner Comments

(a) Two examples given in line with the mark scheme. (b) The candidate does not give reasons for a religious upbringing leading to or not leading to belief in God. The first paragraph says nothing. The second gives a description of an idea with no reason and the third paragraph goes off on a tangent about religious experience not upbringing. Therefore no marks could be awarded. (c) The candidate does not answer the question. Candidates should be encouraged to try to write a response for every question to give them the best chance of gaining marks. (d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by fully developed reason and is awarded 2 marks. The marks were reached at "making it up" developed by "state of mind" (d)(ii).

The candidate starts (d)(ii) in (d)(i) space. This is not a worry for examiners; if candidate does this and they can see two distinct answers then they are marked and awarded them as if they are in the correct spaces. This candidate writes it twice to be sure!

The candidate gives one fully developed reason and is awarded 3 marks. Refers to Christian teaching, therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall.

SPaG mark for this question was awarded at the higher end of the intermediate level = 3 marks.



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Examiner Tip

If a candidate feels that they have run out of space they should indicate this to the examiner and write somewhere else in the booklet. It is not a good idea for candidates to attach extra pages to the booklet.

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

In Section One of the examination 'Believing in God', question one was more popular than question two. Although overall candidates who opted for question 2 scored higher marks.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; express their own responses to the issues and questions raised using reasons and evidence, whilst evaluating alternative points of view.

The examination paper requires the candidates to give reasoned opinions in (b) and (d)(i) responses. In (c) responses, the knowledge and understanding of the required content is assessed. In (d)(ii) the evaluation of the alternative point of view is assessed. All aspects require the study of Christian attitudes and teachings to the issues.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet points:

How religious experiences, as seen in the numinous, conversion, miracles and prayer, may lead to belief in God.

The argument from causation and how it may, or may not, lead to belief in God.

Why unanswered prayers may lead some people not to believe in God.

(a) What is meant by Conversion?

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

Candidates who achieved 2 marks on this question were able to give the glossary definition confidently.

(b) Do you think a numinous experience leads to belief in God?

Those candidates that knew what numinous meant responded positively to this question and many gave developed reasons. Many candidates did not understand the question as they did not know what numinous meant or began to talk in general about religious experiences.

(Candidates should be advised to begin this answer with the phrase "I think..." or "I believe..." to make sure they are giving a personal opinion; followed by two reasons.)

(c) Explain why unanswered prayers may lead some people to reject belief in God.

This question was generally answered well by candidates. The majority were able to give reasons why having an unanswered prayer may cause doubt and rejection of belief in God.

(d) "God caused the world to exist".

This question was intended to assess arguments for and against the causation argument, however many candidates answered it in terms of whether God created the universe or not. They did not respond to the word 'caused' as intended. It was agreed to accept answers that discussed the whether God created or designed the world to be generous to candidates.

Write your answer here:

(a) ~~What is an example of conversion?~~ Conversion is where your life is changed after giving yourself to god.

(b) ~~Does religious experience lead to the belief in god?~~ I do not think a numinous leads to the belief in god because it still does not prove god exists and does not give any explanation to how he created the world. Also because it does not tell us any new information also because it doesn't give me physical evidence.

(c) Unanswered prayers may lead to some people to reject belief in God because people feel if there is a god he would answer my prayers also people may pray asking for

an ill person in their family to recover and it becomes unanswered that could then lead them to believe there is no god. Also some one may ask for evil and suffering to stop but it does not happen they then might question well if there is a god then why is he bringing so much bad into the world, this could then lead them to not believe in god. Also with unanswered prayers people such as Christians believe he may be busy answering another person's prayer. But if they ask he many times over then they might begin to think he may not exist as they ~~may have~~ begin to feel there is no god to help them if he never answers their prayers.

(d) (i) I do not think god caused the world because I feel how could someone make something so complex. Also I believe the world was caused by science such as the big bang. Also if God created the world then who created him and so on. There is also no evidence that god created the world whereas with the big bang they have some evidence. My argument also is how did god create evolution in 7 days.

(ii) Someone might disagree with me such as a christian because they ~~person~~ ^{believed god} ~~thought~~ ^{thought} ~~might~~ ^{must} believed god created the world in 7 days and nights. Also there was the idea of William pasley as he found a watch and opened it up and ~~it~~ said something so complex must of been deigned. So he believed the world ~~of much~~ ^{must} of had a ~~maker~~ ^{designer} as the world is so complex so it must of been deigned and created by god.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

- (a) The candidate gives the correct answer and is awarded 2 marks.
- (b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by one developed reason. In some responses the reason and the development may be disjointed as in this case but are marked positively. The marks are reached at "prove God" developed by "physical evidence." (c) The candidate gives three reasons written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC. The three reasons are "there is no God" "not believe in God" "he never answers their prayers" Level 3 = 6 marks'
- (d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three simple reasons and gains 3 marks awarded at "complex" "and so on" "evidence".
- (d)(ii) The candidate gives three simple reasons and gains 3 marks awarded at "7 days and nights" "Must have been designed" "Created by God".



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Candidates should be advised to begin (b) and (d)(i) with the phrase "I think..." or "I believe..." or "I agree" to make sure they are giving a personal opinion; followed by reasons.

Question 3 (a)

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

The vast majority of students answered this question well gaining two marks. Candidates who did not gain two marks usually gave a definition based on their knowledge but were misleading about what it meant.

(a) What is meant by a near death experience?

It is essential for candidates to prepare for the key words and use the glossary definitions.

write your answer here:

- (a) A near-death experience is when an event takes place that left you ^{close} to death (touch and go whether you would die or not)
- (b) I do not think Christians should agree with abortion because "Jesus taught about the sanctity of life. However all life begins at conception so having an abortion is a sin."
- Jesus also taught about the ten commandments



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The candidate does not gain any marks as almost dying is not according to the specification glossary correct.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Teach the students the glossary definitions. They must use them to answer the questions to gain full marks.

WRITE YOUR ANSWER HERE.

(a) When someone who is dying has an out of body experience

(b) I believe that Christians should not agree with abortion because ~~it~~ ^{one} is ~~part~~ of the ten commandments says that murder is wrong, and having an abortion is a form of murder. Another reason why Christians should not agree with abortion is that



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Examiner Comments

This example gains two marks for a glossary definition.

Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 4 was more popular than question 3.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; express their own responses to the issues and questions raised using reasons and evidence, whilst evaluating alternative points of view.

The examination paper requires the candidates to give reasoned opinions in (b) and (d)(i) responses. In (c) responses, the knowledge and understanding of the required content is assessed. In (d)(ii) the evaluation of the alternative point of view is assessed. All aspects require the study of Christian attitudes and teachings to the issues.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet points:

- Different Christian attitudes to abortion and the reasons for them.
- Why some people do not believe in life after death.
- Arguments for and against the media being free to criticise what religions say about matters of life and death.

(b) Do you think Christians should agree with abortion?

The majority of candidates answered this question well. Where they did well the candidates understood the arguments given by Christians against abortion and used these confidently to answer the question.

(Candidates must develop reasons; this can be achieved by offering an example)

(c) Explain why some people do not believe in life after death.

Candidates did well at this question.

(d) "The media is not fair to religious people when covering issues of life and death."

Candidates did not respond well to this question, many referred to specific examples of where the media had criticised religious people but did not link it to issues of life and death.

(b) I do think Christians should agree with abortion because Christians believe life starts at conception but there is no proof that it does start at conception. Also women who have been forced into sexual intercourse e.g. rape should be able to decide whether they want that baby as they have had no ^{choice} in becoming pregnant. Also if the mother's life is in danger for example it is causing complications in her body she should put her life before the baby.

(c) Some people do not believe in life after death because they have had a near death experience and claim they do not have an after life, also because science does not

prove there is a life after death so they will not believe it. Also because there is no physical evidence of anyone coming in to a new life from ~~being~~ being dead. Also they may not believe in ~~ghost~~ paranormal Activity which is something that is caused ~~m~~ by spiritual causes e.g. ghosts and mediums. People just think that it is all fake it it can not possibly be true.

(d) (i) I don't think the media is fair because they feel that Christians only follow the rules of God and do not believe in any other views ~~only~~.



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Examiner Comments

(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two reasons one developed. These are awarded at; Reasons one: "forced to have sexual intercourse" developed by "Choice in becoming pregnant" Reason two: "life before the baby" There is a third reason; this should not be credited as we only award two reasons. It is the development that attracts a second mark. It is sometimes possible that the third reason can be seen as a development but not in this case. Two reasons, one developed = 3 marks.

(c) The candidate gives four reasons written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC. The levels are reached at "not believe it" "after life" "being dead" "possibly being true"

Level 4 = 8 marks

(d)(i) The candidate does not answer the question – the response is not about the media being unfair to religious people when discussing matters of life and death. 0 marks

(d)(ii) No response is given = 0 marks



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Examiner Tip

On (b) items candidates should be giving two developed reasons.

On (d) items candidates should be encouraged to give three reasons for each side to secure marks; starting with I agree or disagree and offering a Christian response somewhere in the answer.

Question 4 (a)

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

(a) What is meant by non-voluntary euthanasia?

The majority of candidates gave partially correct answers to this question. The mark scheme and definition is "ending someone's life painlessly when they are unable to ask, but you have good reason for thinking they would want you to do so". Or "a doctor ending the life of an ill person who cannot ask for euthanasia" which gained two marks.

Many candidates gave a partially correct definition or an example such as "switching off a life support machine" or "mercy killing".

Write your answer here:

(a) Non-voluntary euthanasia is ending someone's life without them actually telling you it's OK.

(b) No I don't think Christians should agree with euthanasia, because in my opinion euthanasia is just a fancy word for murder, and in the bible murder is forbidden.



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Examiner Comments

A partially correct answer.

Write your answer here.

- (a) Non-voluntary euthanasia is when someone chooses for the person in pain, because they can't say for themselves, ~~whether~~ to end their life.
- (b) I think that Christians should agree with euthanasia because in the bible it says ^{"treat others as you want to be treated"} ~~love thy neighbour as you love yourself~~, which would mean that if someone was in pain and wanted to die then you should let them because if you were in the situation then



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Examiner Comments

A fully correct answer gaining 2 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Teach students to answer using the glossary definition.

Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 4 was more popular than question 3.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; express their own responses to the issues and questions raised using reasons and evidence, whilst evaluating alternative points of view.

The examination paper requires the candidates to give reasoned opinions in (b) and (d)(i) responses. In (c) responses, the knowledge and understanding of the required content is assessed. In (d)(ii) the evaluation of the alternative point of view is assessed. All aspects require the study of Christian attitudes and teachings to the issues.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet point:

Christian attitudes to euthanasia and the reasons for them.

The nature of abortion, including current British legislation, and why abortion is a controversial issue.

Why Christians believe in life after death and how beliefs about life after death affect their lives.

(b) Do you think Christians should agree with euthanasia?

The majority of candidates answered this question well.

Where they did well the candidates understood the arguments given by Christians against euthanasia and used these confidently to answer the question.

(c) Explain what the British law says about abortion. This question was answered well by the majority of students; concerns arose from centres who had not addressed this bullet point in their teachings. The candidates, in many cases, were under the impression that rape and maturity of the mother were legal reasons for abortion which is not the case, but gained the marks by saying two doctors must agree and that the foetus should be under 24 weeks etc.

(d) "Beliefs about life after death affect the way a person lives their lives".Candidates found this question challenging. The majority of candidates were able to give examples and reasons for how the belief in life after death might affect the way a person lives their lives. However, when asked for the alternative answer to 'why it would not affect how a person lived their lives' they continued to say how the non-belief would affect how a person lived and therefore lost marks.

~~the~~ you think it's what they would want.

(b) Yes, because ~~its~~ the bible says you should be kind and loving and for example euthanasia is the most loving thing to do in some situations.

Also you should think about the person with this disease and think if they really would want to ~~be there~~ live there life like this. For example the golden rule.

(c) The first thing is that it's ~~allowed~~ ^{allowed} ~~to a certain~~ after fertilisation up to a certain point in the pregnancy.

The second thing is that it's ~~allowed~~ allowed depending on the situation you are in, ~~for~~ for example if you don't think you can afford the baby.

The third thing is it's ~~allowed~~ if allowed if the baby is going to have a genetic disorder and you don't think you could look after it.

The fourth thing is in case of rape it is allowed, because if not it's not fair on the mother.

Also it's allowed for example if the mother is very young and not ready.

(d)(i) ~~No, because~~ I don't think life after death affects the way people live their life because,

- Some people don't believe in life after death so it wouldn't affect the way they live their life.

~~because~~ • Some people just live their life to the full and don't worry about it.

- Some people think in Christianity you can pray to God to remove your sins and still be able to go to heaven. So they wouldn't let it affect their life because they know they can still go to heaven.

(ii) Some people may disagree with

my me because ✓ ✓

- They want to go to heaven so worry about committing sins.
- they have had a near death experience so look at life different. for example they might of saw the light so now believe in life after death.



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(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons. The marks were awarded at:

Reason one: "kind and loving" developed by "some situations". Reason two: "would want" developed by "golden rule". There are two developed reasons gaining 4 marks. (c) The candidate gives two legal elements coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC.

"A certain point in the pregnancy" "genetic disorder"

Therefore gains level 2; 4 marks.

(d)(i) A personal opinion supported by three simple reasons = 3 marks

"live there life" "Worry about it" "still go to heaven"

(d)(ii) One simple reason is given by the candidate and is awarded 1 mark. "committing sins" Refers to Christian teaching, therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

When writing your schemes of work for the GCSE refer to the bullet points of the specification and cover all aspects of the course outlined. Many teachers seem to have overlooked the teaching of what the law says on abortion.

Question 5 (a)

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

(a) What is cohabitation?

The majority of candidates gave the correct answer to this question.

- (a) A non-married couple living together in the same house
- (b) No, because adultery is going against one of the ten commandments - "thou shalt not commit adultery". Doing this would mean that you are sinning, and will not go to heaven. Also, Christians believe that the only reason you should



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Examiner Comments

A fully correct answer gaining 2 marks.

(a) Living with someone you're not married to.

(b) I do think all christians should accept sex outside of marriage because I don't think sex should be used just for children it should be used for pleasure as well. Also I believe that it's okay to have children or even pregnant outside



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives a fully correct answer gaining 2 marks. It does not require a lengthy answer.

Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

Question 5 was significantly less popular than question 6. Candidates and centres appear to have recognised the challenges of successfully answering media type questions and have made well informed choices.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; express their own responses to the issues and questions raised using reasons and evidence, whilst evaluating alternative points of view.

The examination paper requires the candidates to give reasoned opinions in (b) and (d)(i) responses. In (c) responses, the knowledge and understanding of the required content is assessed. In (d)(ii) the evaluation of the alternative point of view is assessed. All aspects require the study of Christian attitudes and teachings to the issues.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet point:

(b) Do you think all Christians should accept sex outside of marriage?

The majority of candidates answered this question well. Where they did well the candidates understood the arguments given by Christians against sex outside of marriage and used these confidently to answer the question.

(c) Explain how an issue arising from this section 'Marriage and the family' was presented in the media.

This question was answered poorly by the majority of candidates. The specification bullet point and question asks for 'an issue' therefore candidates could only be awarded for one issue, those who gave four examples of issues covered gained marks for only one of them. The specification and question also identify that it must be an issue from 'Marriage and the family' examples of euthanasia, the roles of women and/or issues from other sections could not be credited.

(d) "The purpose of marriage is to have children". The majority of candidates did well at this question. They identified the reasons people got married and compared them with the purpose of marriage in Christianity.

This candidate demonstrates the issue arising from the media questions; centres do not prepare the candidates well enough for this question. The candidate here gains full marks on (b) and (d) and fails to gain any marks on the (c) item.

(b) I feel they should not, as sex outside of marriage is classed as ² adultery, which ~~is~~ is forbidden in the ten commandments.

Also, sex outside of marriage can lead to promiscuity, which is frowned upon by most Christians.

(c) ~~Firstly~~ The issue of abortion has been presented in a ~~very~~ ^{christian} fair manner in the film 'Juno'.

~~First~~ A pregnant teenager decides to have an abortion, as she feels she is not prepared or stable to raise a child. This is a

fair ^{christian} ~~religious~~ representation as the ~~christian~~ ^{christians} most ~~religious~~ ~~people~~ would accept this, since they would not want to ~~cause~~ reduce the quality of the child's life or cause any harm to the mother in regards to health.

As the film progresses, the ~~character~~ character decides to give birth to child and give it up for adoption. Many Christians would accept this since it is the most loving thing to do for the child and she is not murdering the child. Also, she is helping somebody who is infertile to have and raise a child. This is very loving and since Christianity is a religion of love, they would approve of it.

Overall, both arguments of having an abortion were shown and they included ones that all types of Christians would agree to.

(d) (i) I ~~do~~ disagree with this, as I feel you can have children without being married. Therefore the purpose of marriage would never be to have children. Also, I feel that if you are infertile, you should still be able to get married, as the purpose of marriage is to preserve your love for a partner, not to procreate. Finally, I feel that people should have ~~the~~ free will and if they do not want to have children, but still wish to get married, they should be able to.

(ii) Others may disagree with me as ~~myself~~ ^{and the Bible} ~~that Jesus~~. Christianity manifests how the main purpose of marriage is for a husband and wife to be able to procreate. Secondly, some Christians may believe that having sex for ~~pleasure~~ pleasure would be a sin, so it must only be used for procreation. Finally, they may feel having children bonds a couple together and helps them fulfill their vows to God. Therefore having children is the main purpose of marriage.



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(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons. Despite being a short answer the candidate still achieves the full marks. The marks were awarded at: Reason one : "adultery" developed by "ten commandments" Reason two : "promiscuity" developed by " most Christians" Two developed reasons = 4 marks.

(c) The candidate, as already mentioned, does not identify an issue from this section. The candidate uses abortion which as section two topic and therefore cannot be awarded any marks.

(d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two reasons one developed gaining 3 marks. The marks are reached at:

"married" "children" "partner"

(d)(ii) The candidate gives one fully developed reason gaining 3 marks. Reached at:

"procreative" "procreation" "marriage"

Refers to Christian teaching, therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

An answer for an issue arising from this section would be, for example adultery; and was covered in the media on the programme - Eastenders

Question 6 (a)

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

(a) What is meant by contraception?

The majority of candidates gave partially correct answers to this question. The candidates described the use of contraception or gave an example of a type of contraception. This gained 1 mark as it did not define the word contraception which is to intentionally prevent a pregnancy from occurring.

Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

Question 6 was the most popular question this year.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; express their own responses to the issues and questions raised using reasons and evidence, whilst evaluating alternative points of view.

The examination paper requires the candidates to give reasoned opinions in (b) and (d)(i) responses. In (c) responses, the knowledge and understanding of the required content is assessed. In (d)(ii) the evaluation of the alternative point of view is assessed. All aspects require the study of Christian attitudes and teachings to the issues. The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet point:

(b) Do you think marriage is a lifelong commitment?

This was answered well and most candidates were able to state their own opinion about whether the intention behind marriage is that it will last forever and the hope that the couple set off with that intention; but recognized that in some situations where marriages had broken down it was sometimes the best thing for all involved. Many candidates could give biblical quotations which supported their answer.

(c) Explain how attitudes to family life have changed in the UK.

Where the question was answered well the expected answers of:

single parent families are more accepted

re-constituted families are more accepted

it is more common for parents to share the parental role

it is more acceptable for men to raise the family

were given and awarded.

However, some students tried to answer this question by describing how the roles of women had changed and/or attitude to divorce had changed without referring to the effect on the family so lost marks.

(d) "Pre-marital sex is always wrong".

This was answered very well by the majority of students.

(b) Yes I do think that marriage is a life long commitment. I think this because during the wedding ceremony you and your partner make vows to each other. In these vows the priest will say 'do death do you part', ~~and~~ these vows are a promise to God, and to break them would be a sin.

However I ~~have known people who have been~~ understand that some people who have been divorced lead far happier lives now than they did when they were married. If you are living in hatred of your spouse then you shouldn't stay with them for the rest of your life. It is the lesser of two evils.

(c) ~~Attit~~ Attitudes towards family life have change in many ways over the past several years in the UK for several reasons. The first of these is that homosexual couples are now allowed to get married. ~~At~~ ^{During} March 2014 the

UK had its first homosexual marriage. Before they could only get civil partnerships, but now they have all the equal rights as heterosexuals.

Another way attitudes towards family life has changed in the UK is because women now have an equal role in society as men do. Traditionally the man would go to work, while his wife would stay at home and take care of the house. This has now changed, and in some families it is the other way around, with the woman earning the money.

Attitudes towards family life have also changed, in the UK now as advancements to contraception have been made. With contraception that is 99% effective couples can now plan when, or if, they want to raise a family.

Finally attitudes have changed towards family life in the UK because more and more people are getting divorced now. Statistics show that 40% more couples in 2011 are getting divorced compared to that in the 1960s. This may be due to ~~less~~ ^{more} people getting married at a young age and realising that they may have made a mistake.

(d) (i) "Pre-marital sex is always wrong"

I disagree with this statement for many reasons. First of all it allows you to get comfortable with each other before any commitment is made.

Another reason for this is because if you plan to get married then surely there is nothing wrong with it, ~~it's not the~~ ~~your~~ ~~else~~ as long as its with the person your marrying then no one should get hurt.

Finally I disagree with this statement because the bible states that sex consummated the marriage, nowhere does it say that you can't do it at all.

(ii) Other people may agree with this statement and say that pre-marital sex is always wrong because it suggest that you are promiscuous.

Another reason that they agree with this statement is because that ~~sex~~ in christianity sex is suppose to be special and consummate the marriage. you should wait until you are married.

Finally some people may disagree with this ~~statement~~ ~~question~~ because it ~~it~~ ~~it~~ ~~doesn't~~ ~~mention~~ if you are going to marry someone, and you have sex with someone else then people will get hurt.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons. Awarded at: Reason one : "vows" developed by "death us do part" Reason two : "married" developed by "lesser of two evils" (c) The candidate gives a two reasons one developed written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC. The marks were awarded at:

"stay at home" developed by "earning money" "family"

Gaining level three - 6 marks.

(d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by three simple reasons gaining 3 marks awarded at:

"made" "hurt" "do it at all"

(d)(ii) The candidate gives three simple reasons gaining 3 marks awarded at:

"promiscuous" "married" "hurt"

Refers to Christian teaching, therefore can be awarded more than the 3 marks overall.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

This section was the one where a significant amount of candidates lost marks for committing a rubric error. In some way they muddled the answering of questions 5 and 6. Examiners are told to mark and award the question which gains the most marks but this error still puts candidates at a disadvantage. Teach your students to choose one question and cross out the one they intend not to answer.

Question 7 (a)

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

(a) What is meant by racial harmony?

The majority of the candidates answered this well.

write your answer here:

- (a) racial harmony is different races/ skin colours all living together in mutual respect and peace.
- (b) I do believe that some problems in society are caused by multi ethnicity living together. Some Brits believe Britain should consist of white British people only. But those ideas are true



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Examiner Comments

A correct answer gaining 2 marks.

Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 7 was more popular than question 8.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; express their own responses to the issues and questions raised using reasons and evidence, whilst evaluating alternative points of view.

The examination paper requires the candidates to give reasoned opinions in (b) and (d)(i) responses. In (c) responses, the knowledge and understanding of the required content is assessed. In (d)(ii) the evaluation of the alternative point of view is assessed. All aspects require the study of Christian attitudes and teachings to the issues.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet points:

The work of one Christian Church to help asylum seekers and/or immigrant workers in the UK, including the reasons for the work and its importance and significance.

The UK as a multi-faith society, including the benefits of living in a multi-faith society.

The nature of the UK as a multi-ethnic society, including the problems of discrimination and racism.

(b) Do you think problems are caused because society is multi-ethnic?

An overwhelming majority of candidates answered 'no' to this question. The responses were positive about the benefits of a multi-ethnic society, where answers were to the contrary they quoted news reports and incidents where issues had occurred showing a respect and maturity for the topic. The weaker candidates again mixed up the ethnic and faith elements of the questions despite the (c) addressing multi-faith.

(c) Explain the benefits of living in a multi-faith society.

This was answered well by those candidates who differentiated between faith and ethnicity.

(d) "Churches should support people seeking asylum"

As in previous years the candidates seem to run out of time or steam in the final section. The better answers to this question used quotes and teachings from the Bible; with reference to the Parable of the Sheep and Goats. They gave accounts of examples of Churches helping people seeking asylum.

Many candidates found the alternative response a challenge, the more able candidates used the opportunity to say all people should help not just Christians and in some cases gave non-religious organisations as examples.

(b) I do not think problems are caused because society is multi-ethnic but much rather it is history that has caused problems. This is because racism was well around before multi-ethnic societies and it is the way the child is nurtured by their parents that will lead to them being prejudice or not.

Many ~~are~~ Most multi ~~at~~ faith ethnic societies get on fine now because they have got used to living together. It seems normal. The only problems erupt at the beginning when it is new.

(c) Living in a multi faith society can have benefits for the different religions because they can learn about different ways to celebrate their religious festivals from other religions.

Multi faith societies can also lead to a better understanding of your own religion as you can see a different religion in a different light, which can then go onto a ~~deep~~ deeper understanding of your own.

Multi faith societies can also bring religions together as they can see the similarities between the different religions. This in turn could lead to better community cohesion. The two religions could then go on to ~~help~~ ~~see~~ help each other in future endeavours.

(d) (i) I do agree that churches should help asylum seekers because Jesus taught 'to love thy neighbour' and merely not helping them would go against what he taught.

Asylum seekers are also one of the most misrepresented and ill-treated groups of people. Jesus ^{told} the story of the good Samaritan so why shouldn't they do the same for the people who have had to flee due to fear of persecution.

(ii) Many people would disagree with the statement because why should the church help them when it isn't the church's job. There are numerous numbers of agencies which specialise in helping asylum seekers, so surely the church is just getting in the way.

A lot of the time people use "the fear of persecution" as an excuse to gain access into a country so that they can gain better wages and standard of living.



(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by two developed reasons. The marks were awarded at: Reason one : a developed reason reached at the end of the first paragraph Reason two : a second reason reached at the end of the second paragraph Although candidates can achieve marks like this it is important not to tick at the end of each paragraph and read carefully the answers provided. Two developed reasons = 4 marks.

(c) The candidate gives four brief reasons written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC. The marks were awarded at:

"festivals from other religions" "understanding of your own" "different religions" "better community"

Gaining level four - 8 marks

(d)(i) The candidate gives personal opinion supported by three simple reasons gaining 3 marks awarded at:

"neighbour" "Good Samaritan" "persecution"

(d)(ii) The candidate gives three simple reasons gaining 3 marks awarded at:

"churches job" "in the way" "standard of living"

Question 8 (a)

Key words are given at the beginning of each section of the specification content.

Candidates should be aware of the definitions of the key words in order to use them in their responses. The glossary is found in Appendix 4 of the specification.

(a) What is meant by religious pluralism?

Candidates confused this key word with many other key words and overall it was not answered well.

write your answer here:

(a) religious pluralism is where people seeking asylum is allowed in the society.

(b) I don't think they should because they should be all treated the same and equal to each other. As well as that they should be able to have the same religious rights to men and not be treated any different.



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Examiner Comments

Incorrect answer - gained 0 marks.

write your answer here:

(a) Religions respecting each other's beliefs.

(b) Women should have the same religious rights to men because even though Jesus picked 12 male disciples, he may not have had a choice at the time. ~~also~~ Also, he saw women and



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Examiner Comments

An example of religious pluralism not a definition - gained 1 mark.

Write your answer here.

(a) Multiple religions having the equal right to co-exist in one society.

(b) I do not think that women should have different rights to men in Christianity, as I think they should have equal rights. For example I believe that women should be allowed to become a priest in a Catholic Church, but it



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Examiner Comments

A correct answer. 2 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Notice from these examples the need for the use of the glossary definition to avoid confusion.

Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

In this section question 7 was more popular than question 8.

Candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content; express their own responses to the issues and questions raised using reasons and evidence, whilst evaluating alternative points of view.

The examination paper requires the candidates to give reasoned opinions in (b) and (d)(i) responses. In (c) responses, the knowledge and understanding of the required content is assessed. In (d)(ii) the evaluation of the alternative point of view is assessed. All aspects require the study of Christian attitudes and teachings to the issues.

The specification requires the study of all bullet points. In this example we are assessing the bullet points:

Government action to promote community cohesion in the UK.

Issues raised for religion by a multi-faith society — conversion, bringing up children, interfaith marriages.

Different Christian attitudes to equal rights for women in religion and the reasons for them.

(b) Do you think women should have different religious rights to men in Christianity?

Where this was answered well the candidates focused on the Bible verses about women being silent and Jesus treatment of women to support their opinion. In many answers the 'religious rights' was ignored and candidates wrote about equality in the law and workplace and therefore gained no marks.

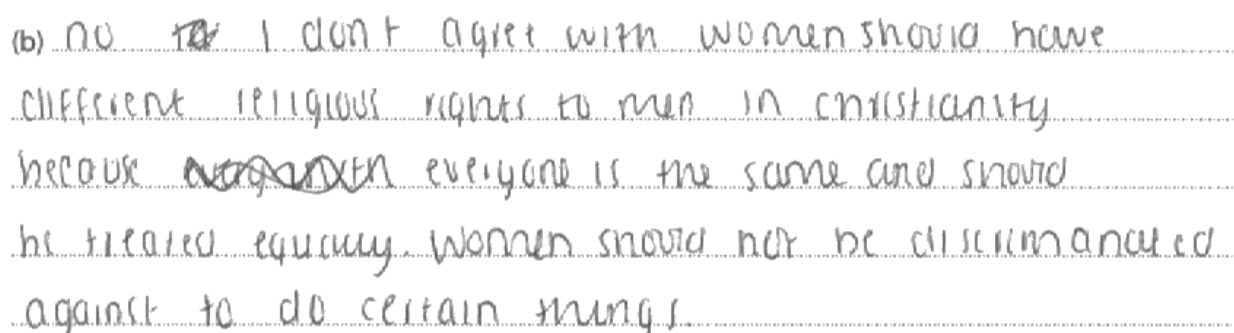
(c) Explain how multi-faith marriages might cause problems for families.

This was answered very well.

(d) "Government laws lead to community cohesion"

This was not answered well by candidates. There was a lack of knowledge about the government law and a misunderstanding of the meaning of community cohesion in many cases.

This question was often left blank.



(b) NO ~~to~~ I don't agree with women should have different religious rights to men in Christianity because ~~everyone~~ everyone is the same and should be treated equally. Women should not be discriminated against to do certain things.

(c) Interfaith marriages may cause problems for families because the if a child will have to follow both faiths. Also children will have decide which ^{faith} ~~marriage~~ they want to follow. It could cause

disagree men's and arguments due to both
factors not agreeing on ~~some~~ something as it
may affect their religion ~~person's beliefs~~
~~and their own~~ ~~that~~ ~~their~~ ~~are~~ also cause arguments
as both want children to follow their religion
also

(d) (i)

I don't really agree with this and Christians agree with me because ~~the~~ Christians ~~mean~~ have to help everyone. Jesus said in the bible it is so that Christians need to be precaution.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me because they ^{believe} ~~think~~ that the government makes up the law. So everyone should follow it to make the ~~our~~ ^{our} country/community/country a better place. ~~They also may disagree with me because~~



(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by one developed reason which was awarded at: Reason one : "treated equally" developed by "certain things" (c) The candidate gives one developed way written coherently; therefore can be awarded the higher mark for QoWC, awarded at:

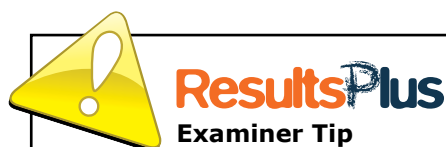
"children decide" developed by "arguments"

Level 2 = 4 marks (d)(i) The candidate gives a personal opinion supported by one simple reason gaining 1 mark awarded at:

"help everyone"

(d)(ii) The candidate gives one simple reason gaining 1 mark, awarded at:

"a better place"



If candidates run out of space, **do not give them extra paper**. Ask them to write a short note to indicate where they have finished the answer within the booklet. There are blank pages at the end of the booklet which can be used.

Paper Summary

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

- When you have chosen a question to answer; cross out the other one to avoid a rubric error.
- Learn the glossary definitions.
- Make sure you can distinguish between key topics e.g. multi-faith and multi-ethnic.
- Always begin the (b) and (d)(i) items with 'I think'/'I agree; the question asks for your opinion and you must own it.
- On (b) items you are required to give two developed reasons.
- Revise carefully!

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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