

Examiners' Report  
June 2014

GCSE Religious Studies 5RS09 01

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## Introduction

This specification for Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies is now well established, this being the fifth year that it has been assessed. It is encouraging to note that numbers increased for this series, after the introduction of linear qualifications at GCSE last year.

A wide variety of centres enter candidates for this unit; entries include centres from different Christian denominational schools and non-faith schools. It is evident that candidates themselves come from a wide variety of faith backgrounds or none. Many candidates engage well with exploring the meaning, place and importance of Christian beliefs and practices in society today. An increasing number of candidates are using, and referring to, key Christian theological ideas within their responses.

It was pleasing to note that candidates made good use of the other units they have studied in their responses on this paper.

This year, there was evidence that many candidates continue to be well prepared and have taken advice from previous years, plus reading the Principal Examiners' *Report on the Examination*.

It appeared that fewer candidates had timing issues and therefore completed the paper.

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

This was the most popular question in this section and most candidates engaged with it well. They demonstrated a good level of understanding of key Christian beliefs.

1 (a) Many candidates gave the glossary definition of *compassion* but a significant number only referred to it as meaning showing love to others.

1 (b) There were many well-considered answers that used the theological concepts from this section to assist them in answering the question. There were references to original sin, eternal life, Jesus' death bringing salvation, sin separating humans from God etc. The best examples developed their answers, developing two of these points. For example, the concept that humans are born with original sin, was developed by reference to this needing to be washed away through baptism.

1 (c) Whilst many candidates achieved Level 4 by giving four ways in which Christians can show love of God, some candidates wrote predominantly about showing love of others and did not link it back to explain how this shows love of God.

1(d) There were some excellent responses. Many candidates compared the concepts of Trinity and Unity, producing answers that showed an understanding of these concepts.

This candidate gains full marks in each part of the question.

Write your answer here:

(a) Compassion - a feeling of pity which makes you want to help the sufferer

(b) Yes i do think humans need to be saved from sin because thats the only way they can get into heaven. Therefore they need to repent and give their lives to God. // Also yes because its good to be saved and have a relationship with Jesus. Therefore they have an eternal life and a happier way of living now.

(c) Christians can show their love of God by going to church. This can show their love of God because it shows they are committed to serving in his house and learning more about him.

Christians can also show their love of God by helping the poor. This shows their love of God because they are practising ~~the~~ what Jesus preached.

They can show their love to God by praying. This shows their love of God because they are telling Him that they love Him.

Finally they can show their love to God by worshipping. This shows love to God because they are showing Him that they love Him.

(d) (i) Yes i agree that God is best described as the trinity because its a simple way to describe such a complex subject.

Also i agree because it is correct. God is the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit and as a christian i believe that is a true fact.

finally i agree because it says in the bible that Jesus says 'im the father, son and holy spirit and no one can get to the father but through me'

(iii) Some people may disagree because they cant understand how one person can be three things

Also they may disagree because they dont believe in God (an atheist) and may not think even God is real

finally they may be a liberal christian and may not believe that the trinity is 100% true



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**Examiner Comments**

- (a) Note that the candidate includes the idea of 'feeling' and 'helping' and therefore gains the 2 marks.
- (b) They give their own opinion and two developed reasons eg *the only way to get to heaven* developed through a reference to repenting.
- (c) Level 4 – three brief ways and one developed:
- (d)(i) and (d)(ii) The candidate gains 3 marks for each part by giving three simple reasons for each part.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

To gain full marks candidates do not have use all the space in the answer book.

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

(a) Whilst many candidates did give the glossary definition, a significant number referred to it as being sorry or asking for forgiveness. Some gave examples of how Christians can show repentance and referred to the idea of 'deciding to not do it again.'

(b) There were many thoughtful responses referring to how the Holy Spirit is seen as being active in the world today and where this is referred to in the Bible.

(c) Many candidates made use of ideas from other units. Whilst this is acceptable and to be encouraged, candidates need to ensure that they answer the question that was set. Some candidates focussed on scientific explanations for the creation of the world and not on the importance of the belief in God as Creator, for Christians.

(d) Most candidates were able to give both sides of the argument by referring to why love of others and love of God is important for Christians.

This is an example of a candidate who gains full marks, including 4 marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG).

Write your answer here:

(a) Repentance is being sorry for your actions and not repeating them.

(b) I do think Christians should believe in the Holy Spirit today as God is a Trinity, and if you believe in God, you should believe in the Trinity, one of which is the Holy Spirit. It is also shown as it inspires Christians and those who have religious experiences do so due to the Holy Spirit, for example if someone felt a vocation to be a nun, that could be an example of the Holy Spirit in action. In charismatic worship, the Holy Spirit is also shown to be present by the inspiration of pentecostals (for example) to speak in tongues. If you believe in God ~~and~~ and Jesus, as Christians should, then you should believe in all aspects of him; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(c) It is important for Christians to believe in God as the Creator, as in the Bible, in Genesis, it describes how God created the world and humanity in his image. Christians believe the Bible is the word of God, so this is one reason why they believe

God is the ~~God~~ Creator. One of the arguments for the existence of God is the ~~creation~~ <sup>causation</sup> argument, that the Universe must have a cause and that cause must be God. Jesus told his followers to refer to God as "Our Father", representing the fact God created humanity. This explains why God loves ~~it~~ us all (and is omnibenevolent), as we are all his creations. One of the reasons for believing in an omnipotent, omnibenevolent, omnipresent, eternal God is the belief that without such a being, the Universe and humanity could not exist. This belief in God as the creator means ~~the~~ Christians can thank God for their existence as well as the beauty of the world, bringing new appreciation to the apparently mundane and ~~seeing~~ seeing them as a reflection of the divine. It also encourages Christians to treat each other as equals, as they were all created equal and in the image of God, so no race or gender is better than any others.

(d) (i) I do agree, as the central teaching of Christianity, the golden rule, is to treat others as you would like to be treated. If you follow the central belief of love, then you are acting as Jesus would, and Christians believe all Christians should try to emulate Christ. If you love others, then the "Parable of the Sheep and Goats" says you are also loving God, as people are judged on their actions and inactions. The parable of "The Good Samaritan" also shows love of others to be of importance over belief, as the hero of the story is not a Jew, and acts out of love rather than faith. Those who love God, should love others, as he is omnibenevolent, and those who love others also love God.

(iii) Others may disagree, as for example Roman Catholics believe the ~~best~~ way to be a good Christian is to complete sacraments, especially Eucharist and confession. Most Churches say you need to be baptised and accept Jesus Christ to be a Christian, and for some, such as in Roman Catholicism, you have to have a confirmation. If you do not believe in God, it could be argued, then it doesn't matter what your actions are, you cannot be a Christian as you have not accepted Jesus Christ, and so do not comply with the "Apostles Creed", which lists what a Christian should believe.



## ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

(a) This is a fully correct answer. It paraphrases the glossary definition.

(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion and two developed reasons.

The point that the Holy Spirit inspires Christians is developed through the example of vocation. Another valid developed reason about charismatic worship is given but the candidate has already achieved full marks.

(c) This is Level 4, with one developed and two brief reasons given.

(d)(i) Three simple reasons are given about the Golden Rule:

- Golden Rule central to Christianity
- Acting like Jesus
- Parable of the Sheep and Goats teaches that people are judged by actions

(d)(ii) One simple and one developed reason are given:

- A good Catholic completes the sacraments
- A good Christian needs to be baptised, developed by giving a further example, confirmation, and linking it to the question

SPaG

This candidate has demonstrated an effective understanding but made a few errors.

### Question 3 (a)

A significant number of candidates either left this answer blank or just stated that *apostolic* meant apostles or followers of Jesus.

The glossary definition is the belief that the Church is founded on the apostles. To gain full marks, candidates needed to make a link between the apostles and the Church today. This is a key concept in this section, *Community and Tradition*.

This is a full mark answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) Is the thought that the church was set up by the apostles. Such as the apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke etc.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This candidate has used alternative wording to the glossary definition, which is acceptable, therefore gaining 2 marks.

### Question 3 (b) (c) (d)

This was the more popular question in Section 2.

(b) This question was well answered by most candidates. Candidates approached it in a variety of ways. Some referred to the teachings in the Bible and their relevance today, others to it being the word of God. Still others referred to the need for the Church to interpret the Bible or the importance of conscience for some Christians.

(c) The vast majority of candidates was able to explain the role of a church in its local area by giving a number of different roles it can play, eg as a place of worship, as a social centre and a place where Christians can share their faith. Usually, candidates gave examples of each of these.

(d) Candidates who gave reasons as to whether *The Church*, as opposed to *a church*, is the means to faith and salvation, often gained full marks in both parts of the question.

This is an example of a candidate who did well in parts (b) and (c) but not in (d).

(b) I do not think that it should have authority over Christians today because I believe that times and cultures have changed significantly since the Bible was written, and so it is impossible for everything which applied to Christians in those days could all be valid now.

I also think that the Bible was not to be taken literally, but rather as metaphors and stories, and so in the literal sense it should not have authority over Christians, <sup>as such,</sup> but its teachings should maybe just influence them in a positive way instead.

~~praying~~ or The role of the church in its local area is to welcome all to worship, no matter what their race or gender etc. is. It should be somewhere for people ~~to~~ can go to confess their sins or clear their mind, or to seek help from God when they need it.

The church should also play a part in raising money for ~~local~~ charity, and helping out in the community with things like homeless shelters, and visiting people in hospital ~~of who need~~ who don't have any friends or family and ~~are~~ are alone in their time of need.

It is also somewhere for people to get married with the acceptance of God, or ~~for~~ where people can say goodbye to their loved ones when they pass away, and seek comfort from the church that they are in peace, or in Heaven.

(d) (i) I disagree, because I believe that there are other ways of worshipping and making a connection with God which do not involve going to church. For example, prayer and meditation at home can keep your faith strong, and you can ask for salvation, as in the Bible it states that salvation and forgiveness come to those who ask for it.

(ii) Some Christians may disagree with me because in the 10 commandments it says you must keep Sunday holy, and they might believe that in order to do that you must attend church. They may also disagree because at church it is the only way to be given Communion by a Priest, and therefore it is not valid worship if you do not eat and drink the body and blood of Christ.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

(b) Two developed reasons are given.

(c) Level 4: one developed and two brief roles are given, other roles are given but the candidate had already received full marks.

(d)(i) 2 marks – two simple reasons given:

*make connection with God in other ways and salvation comes by asking.*

(d)(ii) 1 mark – one simple reason:

The candidate is referring to the function of *a church* not *The Church*. Only one valid reason is given, regarding receiving communion.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Know the difference between *a church* and *The Church*.

### Question 4 (a)

Whilst some candidates were able to give two examples of Non-conformist Churches, a significant number gave incorrect examples eg Church of England or the Orthodox Church.

Write your answer here:

(a) Baptist, pentecostalist.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer gains 2 marks for two correct examples.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

To save time, it is acceptable not to write in full sentences when giving examples in a question.

## Question 4 (b) (c) (d)

(b) Candidates responded well to the question. A variety of reasons was given on both sides of the argument including references to:

- Jesus not being married
- St Paul's teachings
- marriage being an important part of Christian life
- married clergy being better at dealing with family issues.

Less able candidates still tended to focus on why people should be able to choose for themselves. They tended to make a tenuous, and often incorrect, link with the concept of freewill.

(c) Most candidates were able to explain why the Pope is important for Roman Catholics, using such reasons as that he:

- is the successor to St Peter
- gives guidance on issues of belief
- is the Head of the Catholic Church
- has been chosen through the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Candidates were only credited for the roles that are only usually the Pope's, so whilst he might conduct Mass, this is not specific to his role.

(d) Candidates responded well. There were some thoughtful answers on both sides of the argument that made good use of the different ways in which the Bible is viewed by different denominations within Christianity. Less able candidates tended to be able only to present one side of the argument, usually supporting the statement given. They made the same point over and over again, ie that nothing can be proved in the Bible - it is just a book.

Here are two examples of how candidates approached part (d) of Q4.

Both gained full marks.

(d) (i) I disagree with the statement. This is because firstly I believe that the Bible is the word of God so has a very high authority so isn't just "a book". In addition, the Bible I believe that the Bible is without error as I am a fundamentalist, so therefore I believe the Bible is holy and very significant. Finally, the Bible helps guide and encourage people in the Christian faith so therefore is very important to Christians and to God.

(iii) Some people may disagree with me as the Bible looks like a normal book which has different authors so therefore is just a normal book. Also some people may not be Christians and follow another religion which does not believe the Bible is the word of God and so therefore is just a normal book. Finally, some people may be ~~athe~~ atheists and not believe in God so there will be people who will not see the Bible as the word of God or anything special. They will just see the Bible as a book.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This candidate states that they disagree and goes on to give three simple reasons why. The Bible:

- is the word of God
- is without error
- helps and guides people

(d)(ii) The candidate indicates that they are giving an alternative view by stating *some people may disagree* and then gives three simple reasons.

- The Bible is like a normal book - it just has different authors
- The Bible is not significant if you follow another religion
- Atheists do not believe in God, so it is just a book

(d) (i) As a Methodist I believe the Bible is more than a book as I believe the people who wrote it were told what to write from God. Furthermore I believe that the Bible is a guide to Christian living and so is very important. Finally I believe it is important because it warns people what will happen to them if they don't look after people in the parable of the sheep and the goats' (Matthew's Gospel)

(ii) Atheists may disagree ~~as~~ because they don't believe in God so they don't think it was divinely inspired. Moreover as the Bible contradicts ~~it~~ itself it can't be a guiding book because people who follow it ~~can~~ struggle to interpret its meaning. Finally Atheists may say that as ~~it~~ it was written more than two thousand years ago a lot of the passages in it are outdated and no longer helpful.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In this answer the candidate makes it clear that it is their view by stating *as a Methodist I believe the Bible is more than a book*.

The answer gives three clear reasons for their view.

- It is not just a book - people were told what to write by God
- It is a guide for Christian living
- It warns people of what will happen to them if they do not look after other people

Part (d)(ii) it is a valid response to this question, saying that an Atheist may disagree. Three simple reasons are given. Such terms as 'moreover' and 'finally' have helped the candidate to structure their answer.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Preplan how to structure answers in response to the different parts of the question.

### Question 5 (a)

Most candidates were able to give a correct definition of transubstantiation, making reference to the bread and wine changing, or becoming the body and blood of Jesus.

write your answer here:

(a) Transubstantiation is the belief that during the Eucharist the ~~bread~~<sup>bread</sup> and wine become Jesus' blood and body.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate makes clear reference to the bread and wine becoming Jesus' body and blood.

## Question 5 (b) (c) (d)

(b) Whilst there were some good answers, a significant number of candidates still did not know what Holy Week is and so did not score well on this question.

The best answers took either two different days of Holy Week, or gave two reasons why that day is still significant: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. Those who said that Holy Week was not important generally made reference to other festivals, especially Easter, as being more important, or that Holy Week is not celebrated by as many people today.

(c) Whilst there were some very good responses, there were others where it was obvious that candidates were not clear about the difference between infant baptism, confirmation and believer's baptism. They confused, or merged, the three rites.

(d) A significant number of candidates focused on the death, and not the resurrection, of Jesus. There were even references to Lent. It was clear that if the candidates knew what the different festivals celebrate, and the key beliefs associated with each one, they were able to offer valid reasons in answer to the question.

The following example demonstrates that answers do not have to be long, or candidates use all of the space given, to score well on a question.

(b) I think that Holy week is important as it is a time for Christians to prepare for Easter and it reminds us of the last week of Jesus's life. It can be a spiritual time for Christians to remember what Jesus went through for the betterment of Humanity.

(c) Some Christians believe that you should only be baptised when you are ~~one~~ old enough to make that ~~best~~ decision to follow Jesus Christ and that your parents should not make promises to help you to

become a Christian before you can decide if you want to believe in God. A believers baptism can be very important to a person as they are showing God that they want to commit themselves to following Jesus without being made to by parents. Some Christians believe in believers baptisms as Jesus himself, was baptised in the river Jordan before he began his ministry and Christians want to follow the example of

Jesus so they should have believers baptisms.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

(b) two developed reasons are given, so gaining 4 marks.

The reasons are:

- *time to prepare for Easter* developed by *reminds of Jesus's last week.*

- *spiritual time* developed by *reminds of what Jesus went through for humanity*

(c) Full marks are gained because two brief reasons and one developed reason are given.

The candidate develops the reason that believer's baptism follows Jesus' example by giving details of his baptism and linking to believer's baptism.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

The easiest way to develop a reason in (b) questions is to add extra information by use of examples or linking the point to key beliefs or teachings.

## Question 6 (a)

This was the most popular question in Section 3.

To gain full marks on this question, candidates needed to refer to the fact that they were confirming for themselves the promises made in infant baptism.

A number of candidates made reference to the fact that it was a sacrament, a public declaration of faith, or becoming a member of the Church. Whilst not incorrect, they could refer to other rites or practices as well. When giving the meaning of such words candidates need to make clear what makes them different from other rites or practices.

write your answer here:

(a) Confirming the promise made for you at baptism and showing the love for God.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer gains full marks because there is clear reference to confirming promises made at baptism for an individual.

## Question 6 (b) (c) (d)

(b) The specification requires candidates to know why Roman Catholic and Non-conformist churches have certain features. The best answers gave two reasons why the altar was important, with a particular reference to the centrality of the Eucharist for some Christians, or choosing to explain why one or two other features were important, such as the font, lectern or pulpit. Some weaker answers failed to refer to the features of the church building and spoke generally about Christian beliefs.

(c) This question required candidates to consider the importance of Christmas for Christians. There were some excellent theological answers that showed an in-depth understanding of the significance of this festival within Christianity. However, some candidates still wrote too generally and did not link key Christian beliefs to specific festivals.

(d) Most candidates gave two or three reasons for both sides of the argument.

This candidate gains full marks.

(b) I do think the altar is the most important feature in a church, as it is where Holy Communion or eucharist takes place. This is the most important sacrament, as it ~~comes~~ is following Jesus's command at the Last Supper to break bread and wine in memory of him, so it can turn to his flesh and blood (~~transubstantiation~~ transubstantiation). It also holds the candles which represent Jesus as the "light of the world" and remind the congregation of his sacrifice, to ~~redeem~~ redeem us of our sins. It is also placed in the holiest part of the church, and normally has a cross or crucifix on it, so reminding the congregation of Christ's sacrifice to redeem our sins and his resurrection to provide hope of salvation.

(c) Christmas is important for Christians as it celebrates the birth of Christ, as God in carnate, and the miracle of the virgin birth (also known as the immaculate conception). Jesus's birth is important to Christians, as without God coming down to walk among us as Christ, our sins

would not have been redeemed by his sacrifice, and we would not have been able to reach salvation. Christ's coming allowed the forgiveness of sins and the promise of a life eternal. It shows the innocence of Christ, as a pure baby, and also reminds Christians of Christ's second coming, at Judgement, and helps them remember to act as lovingly and as meekly as Christ himself in order to receive salvation. By reminding Christians of the miracle of God's coming, it also helps them to ~~be~~ appreciate the wonder of God, and be thankful for all his gifts, most of all Jesus Christ. This brings new gratitude, joy and wonder into their lives as well as a renewed appreciation of God's love for humanity, to give his only son to redeem our sins.

(d) (i) I do not think all Christians should be baptised as babies, as baptism should be a conscious choice to accept Christ, and cannot be made on behalf of a child, as they should come into the decision of their own will. Christ himself was baptised as an adult, and the baptisms in the New Testament are adult baptisms. It is also forcing the religion onto the child, which is wrong as they should be free to choose their religion (or leave it) at whatever stage of life they feel ready to choose.

(iii) Most mainstream Churches would disagree with me, arguing that a child of Christian parents should be treated and brought up as a Christian themselves. By having the child baptised they are washed free of sin. It also a long held christian tradition which links the Church together down the ages and allows the child to receive a christian name. Some believe if the child baby is not baptised, then it retains the original sin, so needs to be washed clean. It also enters the child into the Church from an early age so they grow up to be a Christian.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

(b) There are two developed reasons:

- *Holy Communion placed here* developed by referring to it as a sacrament
- *Hold the candles that remind people of Jesus as 'the light of the world'* developed by link to *purpose of Jesus' life*

There is another developed reason at the end of the answer but the candidate has now gained full marks.

(c) The candidate gives a fully comprehensive reason by explaining the significance of the birth of Jesus for Christians, using such terms as *God incarnate, salvation, love of humanity*.

(d)(i) and (ii) Three simple reasons are given, resulting in full marks.

## Question 7 (a)

Question 7 was the most popular question in this section.

A surprising number of candidates defined *holy orders* as God's laws or religious rules and did not make the connection with becoming a priest.

This is a fully correct answer.

Write your answer here:

(a) the status of a bishop, priest or deacon.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

This candidate gains full marks for giving a correct definition of *holy orders*.

They could have gained full marks for just mentioning a priest.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Know, learn and use the key terms for each section.

### Question 7 (b) (c) (d)

(b) The best answers, which thought the Ten Commandments are important as a guide for living today, used examples from the Ten Commandments to develop the reasons given.

Those candidates that thought that the Ten Commandments are not important as a guide for living today, gave specific examples of moral decisions that have to be made today but are not covered by the commandments, eg euthanasia. Alternatively, they gave examples of other teachings they thought were more important. In both cases, candidates made good use of their knowledge and understanding of the content in this section of *Living the Christian Life Today*.

(c) Many candidates showed a good understanding of the importance of vocation for Christians and gave a wide variety of examples of different vocations that Christians follow.

(d) On the whole, candidates engaged well with this question. The best answers used the teachings and example of Jesus about displaying religion and how Christians can apply these today.

This candidate gains full marks on each part of the question.

(b) As a Christian I do believe that the ten commandments are important as a large proportion of them co-inside with the law such as don't murder and don't steal. This makes them as good as a guide for living as they contain a lot of the same things. I believe they are important as they deliver you from sin and evil and allow you to progress into heaven on judgement day

(c) Vocation is a calling from God. This is important as in order to show your complete devotion and love of God one must fulfill their vocation. Christians believe vocation is important as it

could involve career or marriage for example there may be ~~someone~~ someone who believes their vocation is to not get married and remain celibate like Jesus. Mother Theresa received a calling from God to go on mission and set up hospices for the dying such as Calcutta. She fulfilled her vocation and received a Nobel Peace Prize. One of the ways vocation could make Christians closer to God is because if you have fulfilled your vocation, when judgement day arrives you may get into heaven like the parable of the sheep and the goats which states God will separate us now a shepherd separates his sheep from his goats and the sheep will get into heaven and the goats to hell.

(ii) I do not believe Christians should display their religion as Jesus criticised people who did. Jesus said that praying on street corners, wearing sackcloth when fasting and giving to people in front of others is wrong. He said religion should be practised in private. Others would agree with me as they believe that praying alone in private lets you concentrate on being closer to God and not making a show of religion. Some Atheists would agree as it could be considered they are trying to force their religion on others.

(iii) Others would disagree because they believe Jesus went on mission so it is their job to follow his example and live the active life. Also God has given us all free will to practise

God has given us all free will to practise religion in anyway that makes us feel closer to God. Finally, Jesus said "a man that is too quick to criticise ~~the~~ must not forget he is human to" so people cannot criticise people who pray in public because they will be at fault with their worship too at some point, also the people displaying religion could be trying to achieve something by preaching and teaching to others.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

(b) The candidate gives a personal opinion and two developed reasons:

- *coincides with the law* developed by example of *do not steal*
- *delivers you from sin* developed by *this progresses you to heaven*

(c) Two developed reasons are given.

The section about Mother Teresa is not linked to the question. The candidate needs to say that it is a way of serving God or showing discipleship and then use this as an example.

(d)(i) One developed and one simple reason are given. The candidate develops the first reason by giving examples of what Jesus criticised people for doing, eg praying on the streets.

(d)(ii) Three simple reasons are given in the response, therefore it gains 3 marks.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure that all of the points made in an answer are linked to the question that is asked.

### Question 8 (a)

Most candidates were able to give a correct definition of the term *charity*.

Write your answer here:

(a) helping people who are in need.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This is a fully correct answer.  
2 marks

### Question 8 (b) (c) (d)

(b) Most candidates were able to state their own opinion as to whether becoming a priest is the best way to show a vocation and gave reasons for it. Many answers demonstrated that candidates understood the role of vocation in the life of Christians today and they were able to give examples of vocations that were different from becoming a priest.

(c) There were some excellent answers where candidates explained how Christians use the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount to interpret the Law of Moses as a guide to living. However, many candidates referred to all the teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and some included Jesus' parables. The question was how Christians *use* the teachings, so they needed to give the ways eg they do not become angry, they love their enemies, they do not look lustfully at others.

(d) There were some most thoughtful responses. Many candidates made good use of their knowledge and understanding of the specification and developed their answers by giving relevant and interesting examples. Weaker answers showed the candidates were confused about what the Golden Rule is, and stated that it is part of the Ten Commandments, so often did not give valid reasons.

This candidate gains full marks in parts (b) and (c).

(b) NO using a monastic life is a better way of showing vocation because then ~~the~~ you are dedicating everything to God and abiding by the most important commandment love of God.

Another example is becoming a doctor therefore you can save lives because of vocation. This means you are helping others which is the 'Golden rule'.

(c) Christians use the ~~the~~ re-interpretation of the Law of Moses as a guide for living. In the Law of Moses it says 'you should not

commit adultery') in the ~~new~~ Sermon on the Mount it says 'you should not lust over the opposite sex'

In the law of Moses it says 'an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth'. This is re-interpreted by saying, 'if a person hits you on the right cheek, then let them hit you on the left as well.'

In the law of Moses it says 'do not murder'. In the Sermon on the Mount it says, 'do not get angry.'

Christians use these as a guide because it is harder and if everyone abided by this then there would be no hurt or war in the world.

(d) (i) Yes because if everyone was treated the same then there would be no hurt, war or poverty.

Another reason is because it is a <sup>man</sup>-teaching in the bible.

Jesus used the golden rule and he was the best example of a good Christian by living a good Christian life.

This is a holy order from God. It is taught in every religion.

(iii) People may disagree because not everyone will abide by the rule. There fore it could lead to more ~~hurt~~ and suffering.  
Another reason is that ~~good love~~ Love of God ~~&~~ is more important than ~~this~~ the 'Golden rule'.  
The Golden rule isn't the answer of all situations.  
They may be different interpretations which could be misunderstood.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

(b) Two developed reasons are given:

- Monastic life is better because the person is dedicating everything to God, developed by *abiding by the most important commandment, love of God*
- Doctors save lives, developed by the reference to following the Golden Rule

(c) It is clear that the candidate knows the text and gives the ways Christians use the teachings.

Note: the last sentence is a reason, not a way.

## Paper Summary

Candidates continue to produce some very interesting answers to the questions posed. This is an indication that they and their teachers are not only studying the specification but also are engaging fully in relating this to everyday life and considering the challenges and possibilities that Christianity, as a faith, poses for people today.

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

- Maximum marks on the (a) questions are gained easily by learning the Edexcel glossary definitions and this is a constant feature throughout the paper
- In (b) questions, candidates do not explain other people's views. The easiest way to gain full marks is for candidates to concentrate on stating *their* opinion and writing two separate reasons for it. Each reason should have a distinct paragraph, and be developed by an example or reference to a teaching or key belief
- (c) questions test AO1 and so will **either** ask for candidates to 'Explain why' **or** to 'Explain how'. In response to explain *why*, candidates need to give reasons, and to explain *how* they need to give the ways in which it is shown
- Many of the (d) questions this year produced interesting answers. However, candidates should ensure that they start by stating their own view and reasons for it in (d)(i) and state reasons why someone might hold a different view in (d)(ii), rather than confusing the two halves
- Candidates should be clear about the difference between *The Church* and *a church*, and ensure that they do not confuse the two when answering questions
- Candidates should understand the different practices and beliefs associated with the festivals in Section 3
- Candidates should not confuse the different rites of passage - infant baptism, confirmation and believer's baptism - in Section 3
- In Section 4, candidates should understand the key teachings they are required to know from *The Sermon on Mount* as given in the specification.
- If the question is about the teachings from The Sermon on Mount, they should read it carefully to ensure that they are only referring to the passages about which they are asked in the question.

## **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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