

GCSE Religious Studies Command words

Specification A and B

Command word	Question	Requirement	Assessment/marks awarded.	Do not award
State	A	Provide knowledge of religion and belief by recalling factual information	Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge (1) • Knowledge (1) • Knowledge (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the knowledge
Outline	A	Provide knowledge of religion and belief by recalling factual information	Award one mark for each point identified up to a maximum of 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge in a sentence (1) • Knowledge in a sentence (1) • Knowledge in a sentence (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists (maximum of one mark.)
Describe	B	Provide knowledge and the comparison of Christianity with another religion studied belief/practice beliefs from the asterisked bullet points in the specification.	Students must recognise that Christianity is the main religious tradition of Great Britain. Award one mark for describing a relevant Christian belief/practice. Award a second mark for a contrasting description from a named religion up to a maximum of four marks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Christianity (1) whereas in (1) • In Christianity (1) whereas in(1) 	
Explain	B	Provide understanding of an aspect of religion and belief and developing this beyond a habitual response.	Award one mark for providing a reason. Award a second mark for development of the feature. Up to a maximum of four marks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example reason (1) example development (1) • Example reason (1) example development (1) • Example reason (1) example development (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated reason/development. • Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question.

Explain <i>with reference to a source of wisdom and authority.</i>	C	Provide understanding of an aspect of religion and belief and developing this beyond a habitual response. In addition, students will be required to reference one source of wisdom or authority in support of their explanation.	Award one mark for each reason/belief. Award further marks for each development of the reason/belief up to a maximum of four marks. Award one further mark for any relevant source of wisdom or authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example reason (1) example development (1) Source of wisdom (1) • Example reason (1) Source of wisdom (1) example development (1) • Source of wisdom (1) Example reason (1) example development (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated reason/development. • Development that does not relate both to the reason given and to the question. • Reference to a source of wisdom that does not relate to the reason given.
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Evaluate	D	Analyse the statement provided, considering different points of views and creating logical chains of reasoning that are underpinned by understanding of religion and belief. Reasoned judgements should be made, supported by the appraisal of arguments and leading to a justified conclusion.	Level 1	A superficial analysis of the statement that uses undeveloped arguments, underpinned by isolated elements of understanding of religion and belief. Judgements are asserted without clear links to the analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This question is marked using levels.
			Level 2	A basic analysis of the statement that uses some developed arguments to discuss different points of view, underpinned by limited understanding of religion and belief. This leads to simple judgements which have some links to the analysis, leading to a conclusion with limited justification.	
			Level 3	A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by a sound understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements which are clearly linked to the analysis, leading to a partially justified conclusion.	

		<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="936 92 1041 395">Level 4</td><td data-bbox="1041 92 1668 395">A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.</td></tr></table>	Level 4	A sustained and coherent analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view, underpinned by thorough understanding of religion and belief. This leads to reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.	
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		<p>'Point(s) of view' always means arguments for and against the statement. Where specified in the bullet points under the question, it may also include one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• different views within the religion• non-religious views• philosophical arguments• ethical arguments.			