

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies

Teaching Appraisal

Chains of Reasoning Checklist

About this resource:

This resource helps GCSE Religious Studies students develop effective 'chains of reasoning'. Students write a response to a 12-mark statement, then exchange their work with a peer. The peer then reviews the answer using a checklist (shown below) and provides an "Even Better If" (EBI) suggestion for improvement.

How to use this resource:

1. Provide students with a question and have them write an answer.
2. Pair up the students.
3. Instruct students to swap answers and use the checklist to mark off included points, highlighting in the answer where each point is addressed.
4. If any points on the checklist are missing, instruct students to write an "Even Better If" (EBI) suggestion.
5. After reviewing and completing the checklist, students return the answers.
6. Instruct students to read their partner's checklist and EBI comments, then make the suggested improvements to their answer.

The Checklist*

Chain of reasoning checklist		
Does this answer...	Yes	No
Refer to specific religious believers?		
Include a religious argument in relation to the statement?		
Include a reason to support this argument?		
Offer an additional sentence which clarifies/explains the argument further?		
Provide further evidence, such as an example or quote?		
Explain the example/quote and how it links to the question?		
Conclude with a judgement explaining how the chain of reasoning links to the question?		
E.B.I:		



The points on this checklist are provided as suggestions to help students construct effective chains of reasoning. You may wish to modify this checklist to better suit your teaching groups, offering greater stretch/challenge or to make them more accessible.

You may also wish to instruct students to highlight the positive features present in the answer, to build student confidence.

On the next slide, we have included an example script, marked against the checklist and which offers an 'even better if' comment, which you may wish to share with your class.

The final slide provides a printable version of the resource which you can provide to your class.

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The interview

Example question:

'The Bible holds the complete truth about Creation'

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion

Example Answer:

Firstly, some Christians would agree with this statement and think that the world was created in 6 days according to the Biblical account of Creation found in the book of Genesis. This is because the Bible is a source of authority for Christians.

Some Christians believe that every word in the Bible is true and understand it as the literal word of God. Genesis 1 shows how God is the Creator and that he created light simply by his word. God is omnipotent, all-knowing and all loving so there is no reason not to believe this account is the complete truth. In the Bible it says, "God said let there be light". This supports the idea that some Christians believe the Bible explains to humanity why the world was created as well as how. In addition to this, some Christians would argue science can only explain how, it does not explain why the events took place, or the purpose of life on earth. Therefore, this clearly shows that some Christians believe the Bible holds the complete truth about Creation as they would argue that God is omnipotent enough to create the world in only 6 days.

Chains of Reasoning Checklist:

The checklist below demonstrates how well this answer meets the criteria listed, as evidenced in the highlighted areas shown in the example above. We can see that there is one point which is not present in the answer, and this has prompted the reviewer to offer 'Even better if' commentary to improve the answer:

Does this answer...	Yes	No
Refer to specific religious believers?	✓	
Include a religious argument in relation to the statement?	✓	
Include a reason to support this argument?	✓	
Offer an additional sentence which clarifies/explains the argument further?	✓	
Provide further evidence, such as an example or quote?	✓	
Explain the example/quote and how it links to the question?		✓
Conclude with a judgement explaining how the chain of reasoning links to the question?	✓	
EBI: You have attempted to explain how the source of wisdom links to the question but have not explained what it means.		

Chain of reasoning checklist

Does this answer...	Yes	No
Refer to specific religious believers?		
Include a religious argument in relation to the statement?		
Include a reason to support this argument?		
Offer an additional sentence which clarifies/explains the argument further?		
Provide further evidence, such as an example or quote?		
Explain the example/quote and how it links to the question?		
Conclude with a judgement explaining how the chain of reasoning links to the question?		
This answer would be even better if:		

Chain of reasoning checklist

Does this answer...	Yes	No
Refer to specific religious believers?		
Include a religious argument in relation to the statement?		
Include a reason to support this argument?		
Offer an additional sentence which clarifies/explains the argument further?		
Provide further evidence, such as an example or quote?		
Explain the example/quote and how it links to the question?		
Conclude with a judgement explaining how the chain of reasoning links to the question?		
This answer would be even better if:		