



Examiners' Report

June 2024

GCSE Religious Studies A 1RA0 1A

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Introduction

Introduction GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies A Paper 1a: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion
Option 1A – Catholic Christianity.

The paper contributes to 50% of the overall award.

The assessment consists of four questions: candidates must answer all four questions.

This area of study comprises an in-depth study of Catholic Christianity as a lived religion in the United Kingdom and throughout the world.

There are four sections:

Beliefs and Teachings

Practices

Sources of Wisdom and Authority

Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification.

Centres are to use this, rather than other published resources when planning the course content.

In some questions, marks are available for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation — SPaG

Please note: AO — Assessment Objective

Question 1 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings.

Candidates are asked to 'Outline' on (a) items. Therefore, lists can reach a maximum of three marks.

Bullet point 1.3 – Creation: the nature and significance of the biblical account of Creation, including Genesis 1 – 3; and how it may be understood in divergent ways in Christianity, including reference to literal and metaphorical interpretations; **the significance of the Creation account for Catholics in understanding the nature and characteristics of God, especially as Creator, benevolent, omnipotent and eternal.** (*bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was: 'Outline **three** ways the nature of God is shown in the Creation account.'

Many candidates were able successfully to outline ways using characteristics such as omnipotent, eternal, omniscient.

Some candidates did not read the question carefully and either detailed the events of the creation account or characteristics of God that did not link to the Creation account.

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Question 1: Beliefs and Teachings

1 (a) Outline **three** ways the nature of God is shown in the Creation account.

(3)

One way the nature of God is shown in the creation account is that He is omnibenevolent.

Another way the nature of God is shown in the creation account is that He is omniscient.

Another way the nature of God is shown in the creation account is that He is omnipotent.



The candidate receives 3 marks for outlining correctly 3 ways the nature of God is shown in the creation account.

..that he is omnibenevolent (1)

.. that he is omniscient (1)

.. that he is omnipotent (1)



Candidates need to read the question carefully to ensure that they are answering the question set.

Question 1 (b)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (b) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks.

If three reasons are given the best two are chosen to reward.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.4:

The significance of the Creation account in understanding the nature of humanity: the nature and significance of the nature of humanity being created in the image of God, including reference to Genesis 1 – 3 and **divergent understandings of humanity's relationship with Creation (dominion and stewardship)**; the implications of these beliefs for Catholics today.

(bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)

The question asked was: Explain **two** beliefs about humanity's relationship with Creation

Some candidates were able to make the link to dominion and stewardship, most being able to explain one belief.

Many candidates did not fully-understand the question and made reference to humanity's relationship with God, eg free will and being made in his image.

This is an example of an answer that is given 4 marks.

(b) Explain **two** beliefs about humanity's relationship with Creation. ^{Stew} ~~Creation~~ ^{dominion} (4)

One belief about humanity's relationship with creation is that humans have dominion over it. This is because God gave us control over the Earth and the free-will to make decisions over it.

A second belief is that humans have stewardship over ~~the~~ ^{creation}. This means we have responsibility ~~for~~ ^{for creation} and should care for it as it is a gift from God.



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The candidate gives two beliefs and develops them both:

Belief 1: humans have dominion over it (1) God gave us the freedom to make decisions over it (1)

Belief 2: humans have stewardship (1) Responsibility as it is a gift from God (1)

Total: 4 marks



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Examiner Tip

Candidates are advised to read the whole question to ensure they are answering the question set.

Question 1 (c)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, a quote or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a source of wisdom

- The candidates do not have to reference a quote or quote it word for word.
- If markers of candidate work in centres are unsure if the quote will be accepted, use a search engine. Enter the gist of the paraphrase and 'Bible' or 'Christian teaching'.
- If the candidate states that it is in John 1:18 and then states another verse from John – then this can be awarded. We are not holding candidate to 'verses' but it must be the correct book.
- If the candidate gives the paraphrase and then puts (John 1:18) in brackets the paraphrase can have the mark and the bracketed reference is ignored.
- If a candidate quotes Jesus and it was Paul or vice versa; and the quote is not accredited to them, it is not awarded.

Candidates were assessed on Section One: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 1.1.

The Trinity: **the nature and significance of the Trinity as expressed in the Nicene Creed**; the nature and significance of the oneness of God; the nature and significance of each of the Persons individually: God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; how this is reflected in worship and belief in the life of a Catholic today.

(bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)

The question asked was: Explain **two** beliefs about the Trinity found in the Nicene Creed.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Those candidates who knew the Nicene creed were able to answer this question with two developed beliefs. Some used the words of the Nicene Creed as a source of wisdom, whilst others used it as a development.

A significant number of candidates did not read the question and gave two developed beliefs about the Trinity that were not in the Nicene Creed.

(c) Explain **two** beliefs about the Trinity found in the Nicene Creed.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One belief found in the Nicene Creed about the Trinity is that it is made up of 3 persons, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. This means that God is both one and three, because of his ability to exist as all three persons of the Holy Trinity.

Another ~~belief~~ belief is that Jesus is of the same substance as God. This can be seen through the Nicene Creed when it states that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father. Therefore, this links to the belief that all persons of the Trinity are equal and made of the same substance.



The candidate gives two beliefs and develops them, and uses a source of wisdom.

Belief 1: It is made up of three persons God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit (1) meaning that God is both one and three (1)

Belief 2: Jesus is of the same substance (1) Jesus is consubstantial with the father (1) all persons of the Trinity are equal (1)



In a question that is based on a specific prayer, candidates should make sure, if referring 'to a source of wisdom' as a development, that they include a further source of wisdom.

Question 1 (d)

The focus of the marking changes from AO1 to AO2 on the (d) items. The candidates are being assessed on AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief. This constitutes 50% of the overall mark.

The (d) question has a new mark scheme and the level marks have been awarded using this new scheme.

Candidates were assessed on Section one. Bullet point 1.6 The significance of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus for Catholic beliefs about **salvation and grace, including John 3:10 – 21 and Acts 4:8 – 12; the implications and significance of these events for Catholic practice today.** (*bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was: "Living a good life is essential to receive salvation."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Many candidates knew that salvation was needed to enter heaven. The more successful candidates were able to link this to the parable of the sheep and the goats and compare practical actions, such as giving to charity, with prayer.

Many candidates responded with an answer of whether or not Christians should stop suffering — giving a 'for' and 'against' suffering being humans' problem versus God's issue. They therefore did not answer the question requirement about practical ways.

This is an example of a Level 3 answer.

Candidates should consider the arguments they give. 'This is a strong argument because...' in many cases did not add anything to the answer.

In many answers candidates used a 'writing frame' without understanding what they were trying to achieve.

*(d) "Living a good life is essential to receive salvation."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Many Christians would disagree with this statement that living a good life is essential to receive salvation. This is because we have already received God's salvation through Christ Jesus. This can be seen in John 3:16. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' This biblical verse is suggesting that because God loved humanity so much, he gave us salvation and set us free from all sin. Jesus' ultimate sacrifice shows that he died for us so that we do not have to. Furthermore, the sacrament of baptism, frees us from the original sin therefore we are saved through it and have or will receive salvation. Moreover, Jesus claims in the gospels that in order to get to the Father, they must go through him and he also stated that an individual must be born again.

In contrast to this, some would agree with this statement that living a good life is essential to receive salvation. This is because in order to get to Heaven, a good life must be maintained. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the sheep and goat to teach how individuals will be treated during the end times.

If individuals have been righteous and have a good holy life, God will reward them by allowing them to experience his presence in Heaven. However, if individuals do not maintain a holy life by producing the fruits of the Holy Spirit, being kind to others, and carrying out God's work on earth as well as choosing to be evil through and through, then their punishment would be eternal banishment in Hell.

In conclusion, I disagree with this statement. This is because as a Christian I believe that we have already received ^{→salvation through} God's undeserved love and grace because he loved us no matter what. We have already received salvation through one of the most famous worldly and religious events of all time, being the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, which is him dying on the cross.



The candidate is given 7 marks, which is the lowest mark in Level 3.

The response gives:

A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view. This leads to reasoned judgements.

To be awarded Level Four the candidate would need to:

Provide reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

The candidate receives 3 marks for SPaG: Consistent accuracies means that a couple of spelling and punctuation inaccuracies are acceptable.

Rules of Grammar are used effectively for a GCSE student, which means accurate use of sentences and paragraphs.

Level 3

Question: 7 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 10 marks

This is an example of a Level 4 answer.

*(d) "Living a good life is essential to receive salvation."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

+ = second vatican → putting teachings into practice

- = crucifixion → already received?

(15)

Some Catholics would support this statement because of the belief that it is important to put Catholic teachings into action and live a good Christian life. This is supported by the Second Vatican Council, which made clear emphasis on the need to implement Catholic teachings, and those of the Bible, into the peoples' lives. This also links to the beliefs surrounding eschatology and the strong belief that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead, as stated in the Nicene Creed. This is a strong argument because it takes into account the value of being a good person, and fulfilling the missions of Christianity by living in the way that God would want in hopes of achieving salvation. Therefore, many Catholics would support the statement that living a good life is essential to receive salvation.

On the other hand, other Catholics may disagree with the above statement because it could be argued that through ~~free will~~ and Jesus' crucifixion, there is no need to live a certain way because

Jesus died so that all future generations would receive salvation. This is seen in the Bible accounts of Jesus' death when he asks God the Father to forgive those who crucify him. This means that through God's grace, and the sacrifice of Jesus, all humans received salvation. However, this is a weaker argument because the act of living a life that is not good goes against the teachings of the Church. Therefore, although some Catholics may argue that the statement above is untrue, there is limited evidence to support this.

To conclude, after considering both arguments it is clear that the most compelling is that of the disagreeing side. This is based on the evidence provided and the teachings of the Catholic Church which support the belief that living a good life is essential to receive salvation, as stated above.



The candidate is given Level 4, 10 marks, which is the lower end of the level, because it gives:

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,

To achieve higher in the level the response would need to give a deeper appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

The candidate is given 3 marks for SPaG:

Consistent accuracies means that a couple of spelling and punctuation inaccuracies are acceptable.

Rules of Grammar used effectively for a GCSE student means accurate use of sentences and paragraphs.

Level 4

Question: 10 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 13 marks

Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. Bullet point 2.7

Catholic Social Teaching: how Catholic Social Teaching reflects the teaching to show love of neighbour; Catholic teaching on justice, peace and reconciliation, Evangelii Gaudium paragraphs 182 – 237 – The inclusion of the poor in society; how these teachings might be reflected in the lives of individual Catholics, including reference to Matthew 25:31 – 46 (the Parable of the Sheep and Goats); **the work of CAFOD, what it does** and why.

(bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)

The question asked was: Outline **three** ways CAFOD works to support others.

This question was generally well answered, with many candidates using examples such as short term aid, long term aid.

Some candidates wrongly answered that CAFOD works to evangelise and persuade people to believe in God. Some candidates also wrongly detailed that CAFOD runs food banks and soup kitchens in England.

This is an example of a 3-mark answer.

Question 2: Practices

2 (a) Outline three ways CAFOD works to support others.

(3)

One way CAFOD works to support others is they help others to help themselves as well. Another way CAFOD works is they travel to different places where there is war and political tension to help the people in those countries. The last way CAFOD work to support others is they help those in need, e.g the poor by providing them basic needs such as food, water, clothes etc.



The candidate successfully outlines three ways:

- helps others to help themselves (1)
- travel to war-torn countries to help (1)
- provide basic needs such as food, water etc (1)

Total: 3 marks



Put each outline on a new line.

Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices.

Bullet point 2.6 Pilgrimage: the nature, history and **purpose of Catholic pilgrimage**; the significance of the places people go on pilgrimage; divergent Christian understandings about whether pilgrimage is important for Christians today, with specific reference to Jerusalem, Lourdes, Rome, Walsingham and the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2691 – 2696 (*bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked : Explain **two** purposes of pilgrimage for Catholics

This question was answered successfully by the majority of candidates, who were able to explain two purposes of pilgrimage, with a least one purpose being developed.

This is an example of a full-mark answer.

(b) Explain **two** purposes of pilgrimage for Catholics.

(4)

One purpose of pilgrimage for Catholics is to walk in Jesus' footsteps.

This is because Jesus used to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem therefore Catholics can do the same and be 'imitators of Christ'.

A second purpose of pilgrimage for Catholics is to be cured from illness.

This is because at Lourdes there has been 70 verified miracles, therefore people go to be blessed by holy water for healing.



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The candidate has explained two purposes:

- Purpose 1: to walk in Jesus' footsteps (1) Jesus went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem therefore Catholics can do the same (1)
- Purpose 2: to be cured from an illness (1) at Lourdes there have been 70 verified miracles (1)

Total: 4 marks

This example achieves 4 marks

The second paragraph is a developed purpose but is an example of how there is no need to name a place of pilgrimage to receive marks.

(b) Explain **two** purposes of pilgrimage for Catholics.

(4)

One purpose of pilgrimage for Catholics is to gain a deeper understanding of their faith. Visiting places like Jerusalem, Rome or Lourdes will educate them as they can learn more about the history of their faith and significance of these places.

Another purpose of pilgrimage is to feel closer to God. The Catechism lists places of pilgrimage as one of the most appropriate places for prayer and so when they are there, Catholics may feel more inclined to pray and therefore feel closer to God as they connect with him.



The candidates gives two purposes:

- Purpose 1: to gain a deeper understanding of their faith (1) they can learn more about the history of their faith and significance of these places (1)
- Purpose 2: to be closer to God (1) the Catechism lists pilgrimage as a place for prayer (1)

Total: 4 marks

Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 2.4:

Prayer as the 'raising of hearts and minds to God': the nature and **significance of different types of prayer; the Lord's Prayer**, including Matthew 6:5 – 14, set (formulaic) prayers and informal (extempore) prayer; when each type might be used and why; the importance of prayer and the importance for Catholics of having different types of worship.

(bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)

Candidates are asked to 'Explain two' on (c) items. Therefore, two reasons are required, and both need to be developed for 4 marks. Development consists of a piece of extra information, a reference to a source of wisdom, a quote or examples. The development must be of the reason given and to the question asked.

The reasons then should be supported with a 'reference to a source of wisdom', this must support the reason given and cannot be awarded twice. Therefore, if it is used as development it does not gain a second mark for the source.

The question asked was: Explain two reasons why the Lord's Prayer is important to Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Many candidates were able to explain the importance of the prayer, using reasons such as it was given by Jesus and it is used in mass.

Many weaker answers simply used the Lord's prayer to state beliefs about God and as a result did not fully answer the question. Some candidates confused the Lord's prayer with the Last Supper.

The candidate gives two developed reasons and uses a source.

→ our father....
(c) Explain **two** reasons why the Lord's Prayer is important to Catholics.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One reason why the Lord's Prayer is important to Catholics is because it shows and signifies their belief in God. For example when it says "Our Father, who art in Heaven" it shows the belief that Catholics believe that God is in Heaven until the end of time. The reciting of this prayer is ~~the~~ therefore important because it renews that belief of eternal life after death ~~with~~ with God in Heaven. Another reason why the Lord's Prayer is important to Catholics is because it shows the belief that Catholics will be saved by God if they don't sin. This is important because when it says "deliver us from evil" it shows that belief that Catholics believe that God is the right way for them.



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- Reason 1: shows their belief in God (1) who art in heaven (1) renews belief of eternal life in heaven after death (1)
- Reason 2: Catholics will be saved by God (1) deliver us from evil, God has the right way (1)

Total: 5 marks



Centres having difficulty in finding sources of wisdom should refer to the specification and/or previous mark schemes.

Question 2 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two.

Bullet point 2.2 The sacramental nature of reality: Catholic teachings about how the whole of creation manifests the presence of God; **the meaning and effects of each of the seven sacraments**, including Catechism of the Catholic Church 1210 – 1211; the practice and symbolism of each sacrament; how sacraments communicate the grace of God; **divergent Christian attitudes to sacraments, including reference to Orthodox and Protestant Christianity**. (*bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was: “Seven sacraments are essential to lead a Christian life.” Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

This question wants candidates to compare if all seven sacraments are essential. Many candidates did not address the 'seven' aspect of the question. Many candidates argued for and against the sacraments being needed in general.

There was a significant number of candidates who gave incorrect knowledge of divergent Christian attitudes to sacraments — such as the Church of England only has one sacrament.

This is an example of a Level 3 answer.

(d) "Seven sacraments are essential to lead a Christian life."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Catholics agree with the idea that the seven sacraments are essential to lead a Christian life. In the Catholic Church, it is taught that the sacraments are a large factor of the Church that is carried out. The Sacrament of Confirmation is a Catholic-exclusive sacrament, where a child who has already been baptised 'confirms' their faith by their own will and becomes a full member of the Catholic Church. This is important as their faith is a major part in order to lead a Christian life and to confirm it allows a deeper connection to God. However, this is disagreed on by other Christian denominations. Anglicans believe that only the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist as these are the only sacraments that had appeared in the Bible. However, Catholics believe the other sacraments are necessary as they deepen the devotion to God and help them embody the role of being a good Christian.

However, groups and other denominations may disagree with the any sacraments being needed. Evangelist Christians do not partake in any sacraments and instead have their own practices. This means that they view active belief in God as a more necessary way of leading a good Christian life. However, Catholics would not agree to this. They view sacraments such as the Eucharist as a much more important part of Catholicism, with the Eucharist being described as the 'source and summit of Christian life'. However, this can be arguable as Evangelists believe the gospel is a much more important part as it is God's direct words.

To conclude, I believe ~~the most~~ that the seven sacraments are essential to lead a Christian life.

They allow for opportunities to repent and reconcile with God, ~~to~~ which is important as we continue this life up until death.



The candidate receives 8 marks, which is the middle mark in Level 3 because:

- there is a good analysis of the statement, underpinned by sound understanding of religion and belief
- this leads to reasoned judgements and a partially justified conclusion

To be awarded Level Four the candidate would need to:

Provide 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.

Level 3

Total: 8 marks



Know different Christian view points as indicated on the specification.

This is an example of a top Level 3 answer.

(d) "Seven sacraments are essential to lead a Christian life."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Many Catholics believe that the seven sacraments are essential to living a good Christian life. This particularly because in Catholic scripture, the Eucharist, the sacrament of sacraments, is revered and considered as the most important part of being a part of the faith. The Eucharist was given to the disciples directly by Jesus. This means that by taking part in the Eucharist, Catholics are directly following the command of God, which is of utmost importance to leading a Christian life. However, many Christians do not place as much importance on the sacraments and believe that the Bible contains everything that is needed to lead a Christian life. They believe that simply by ~~reading~~ reading the Bible and using its teachings as a compass to guide them in the right, moral direction in their life, they are doing all that is needed to lead a decent Christian life as they are following the Word of God. The most robust argument is that sacraments are essential to lead a Christian life because ~~the Eucharist is~~ ~~the~~ ~~source~~ ~~and~~ ~~summit~~ the Eucharist is described as the source and summit of Christian life. This means that it is essential and of the utmost importance when it comes to living a good, Christian life.

Contrastingly, some Christians may argue that the Eucharist and the rest

of the sacraments are not as important as many Catholics consider. They argue that one and most important teaching of Jesus Christ was to do unto others as you would have others do unto you. This teaching of Jesus is considered as his most important, so Christians argue that by simply living a good life and treating others with genuine love and kindness, we are doing all that is essential to lead a Christian life. On the other hand, some Catholics believe that the seven sacraments are essential to lead a Christian life as they touch all stages and aspects of Christian life, according to Christian scripture. This means that by following the sacraments, Catholics are never alone and away from God as all sacraments, at one point or another, are involved in their life. This is an essential aspect of living as a good Christian. The most logical argument is the sacraments are essential to leading a Christian life because they often involve a promise with God which means that by following them, you are constantly promising God that you will live a good Christian life.

In conclusion, the sacraments are all essential to lead a Christian life as they are supported by the Bible, the Church and allow people to be in constant and deep connection with God.



The candidate receives 9 marks, which is the top mark in Level 3, because:

It gives:

- 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

To be awarded Level Four the candidate would need to:

- Give 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.

Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.1

The development and structure of the Bible as the revealed Word of God: the origins **and different literary forms of the Bible**. The Old Testament: law, history, prophets, writings. The New Testament: gospels, letters. Divergent Christian understandings about which books should be within the Bible with reference to the Council of Trent. *(bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)*

The question asked was: Outline **three** different literary forms of the Bible.

This question was difficult for a significant number of candidates: many could outline one, usually history or gospels. Many candidates simply outlined books of the Bible.

This is a full mark answer.

Question 3: Sources of Wisdom and Authority

3 (a) Outline **three** different literary forms of the Bible. (3)

One literary form of the Bible is Letters.

Another literary form is Laws.

Finally, another literary form is History.



Three correct outlines:

- One form is letters (1)
- Another form is laws (1)
- Another form is History (1)

Total: 3 marks

Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority.

Bullet point 3.3

The magisterium of the Church: the meaning, function and importance of the magisterium both conciliar and pontifical with reference to Catechism of the Catholic Church 100; **the magisterium as the living teaching office of the Church** and authentic interpreter of the affirmations of Scripture and Tradition, and why they are important for Catholics today.

The question asked was: Explain **two** reasons why Catholics see the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church.

A significant number of candidates had good knowledge and showed an understanding of the Magisterium and its role as a teaching office.

Many were able to explain the role of the magisterium in providing guidance on modern day issues.

A small number of candidates confused the role of the magisterium with the Second Vatican council.

This is an example of a full-mark answer.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Catholics see the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church.

(4)

One reason why Catholics see the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church is because it is guided by the Holy Spirit. The Pope is the head of the Magisterium and Catholics believe as confirmed by the Catechism that the Holy Spirit allows the Pope to speak infallibly therefore with no errors. Therefore we can trust and follow what the Magisterium teaches us.

A second reason why Catholics see the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church is because it has the ability to interpret the Bible on modern issues. For example, we follow the Magisterium's teachings on subjects like Euthanasia as Catholics know they are a trusted source.



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- Reason 1: because it is guided by the Holy Spirit (1) allows the Pope to speak infallibly without errors (1)
- Reason 2: it has the ability to interpret the bible on modern issues (1) for example subjects like euthanasia (1)

Total: 4 marks



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Link examples to the reason given: this is a good form of development

Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.7 : Mary as a model of the Church: the significance of Mary as a model of the Church – joined with Christ in the work of salvation, as a model of discipleship and as a model of faith and **charity**, including Luke 1:26 – 39 and Catechism of the Catholic Church 963 – 975; the implications of this teaching for Catholic life today.

The question asked: Explain **two** reasons why Catholics view Mary as a model of charity.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Some candidates provided developed reasons why Mary is a model of charity as detailed in the mark scheme.

Some candidates confused Mary as a model of discipleship rather than as a model of charity.

This question saw many incorrect answers, with many saying that Mary sacrificed her only son, agreed to Jesus' crucifixion, and performed the miracle at Cana.

This is an example of full marks. The candidate has given two reasons and a source of wisdom.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why Catholics view Mary as a model of charity.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

Mary is seen as a model of charity as she displays obedience and humility at the Annunciation. She is seen to give up her life and career in order to pursue God's will. 'let it be to me according to your will' - Luke reflecting how we as Catholics should also strive to obey God through helping others.

Mary also continues to pray for those who need it and was seen to help ~~for~~ and provide support to lots of people. The 'Hail Mary' is therefore dedicated to her and Catholics pray to her in hope to receive her blessing. She says ~~to~~ to the people in the wedding feast at Cana¹ ask Jesus and 'do whatever he tells you'. This ~~is~~ obedience and charity to help others is likewise reflected in her personal life.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

- Reason 1: She gave up her life to pursue God's will (1) according to your will (1) how we should obey God through helping others (1)
- Reason 2: Mary continues to pray for those who need it (1) provides support for lots of people (1)

Total: 5 marks



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Identifying the two different changes/teachings/beliefs in two different paragraphs is good practice

Question 3 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority.

Bullet point 3.2: Interpretation of the Bible: **Catholic interpretation of the Bible and understanding of the meaning of inspiration; divergent interpretations of the authority of the Bible within Christianity: the literal Word of God, the revealed Word of God and as source of guidance and teaching**, including 2 Timothy 3:16 and Catechism of the Catholic Church 105 – 108; the implications of this for Catholics today.

The question asked:

“The Bible is the literal Word of God.” Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion

Candidates were able to evaluate the different interpretations and support them with reasons. However, some candidates confused the Christian groups — eg stating that Catholics have literal view – which is incorrect and as a result the information that followed that could not be credited.

The candidate is given 8 marks, the middle mark of Level 3

*(d) "The Bible is the literal Word of God."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- refer to different Christian points of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

Some Christians might agree with this, such as Fundamentalists. They believe that the Bible is the literal word of God because it comes from God. We shouldn't challenge it because God has wrote it all for a reason and everything he says is factually true. For example, they believe that the ~~the~~ creation story is literally true and do not accept the Big Bang theory, or evolution. This argument is strong because, if it come from God, then why wouldn't it be his words? We should trust in God that all of which he says is true and that, because he is the most important being, we shouldn't challenge his words. However, this argument could be seen as weak because there is scientific evidence of the Big Bang theory and evolution and some things can only be explained by science.

However, Catholics or mainstream Protestants may disagree with this. This is because they believe that the Bible does come from God but is not his

Actual words. They believe that the creation story is mostly true, but the days represent billions of years. They also accept the Big Bang theory and evolution. This argument is strong because they have a reasonable viewpoint that not only accepts God but also accepts science. This suggests that Catholics understand God's message fully, even though there may be some mistakes in the Bible but it is his message which fully ~~is~~ matters. ~~The CCC teaches that~~ St Paul says that 'all scripture is inspired by God'. This suggests how even though there are different sources and different interpretations, we shouldn't get too caught up on the factuality of the Bible and just focus on the message that God wants us to hear.

Another reason why people may disagree is if they are liberal protestants. This means they believe the Bible is inspired by God, but ~~not this exact words~~ wrote by other people ~~like~~ who felt called to spread God's message. The CCC teaches that the creation story may have "different sources" but it holds the main idea ~~is~~ that we should listen to.

In conclusion, I disagree with the statement because although it does come from God, I think it is important to not focus

(Total for Question 3 = 27 marks)

on how factual it is, but more focus on the message that God wanted us to hear, and also trust in him that he ~~is~~



This response gives:

- A good analysis of the statement. Underpinned by sound understanding of religion and belief.
- This leads to reasoned judgements and a partially justified conclusion.

To be awarded Level Four the candidate would need to:

Provide 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.

The candidate was awarded 3 for SPaG

Consistent accuracies means that a couple of spelling and punctuation inaccuracies are acceptable.

Rules of Grammar used effectively for a GCSE student means accurate use of sentences and paragraphs.

Question: 8 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 11 marks

Question 4 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression of and Ways of Life.

Bullet point 4.7:

The meaning and significance of drama: mystery plays, passion plays; **the way drama is used to express belief** with reference to Catechism of the Catholic Church 2567, and the divergent ways in which drama may be used in church and other settings. (*bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was: Outline **three** ways drama is used to express belief.

This question was answered well with a significant number of candidates using examples such as passion plays, mystery plays, movies and nativities. A small number of candidates did not read the question and outlined why drama is used.

Three correct ways are given.

Question 4: Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

4 (a) Outline **three** ways drama is used to express belief.

(3)

Firstly, through plays movies such as Noah's Ark
Secondly, through reenactments of biblical stories
such as the nativity
Thirdly, through passion plays



The candidate is given 3 marks

- movies such as Noah's ark (1)
- enactments of biblical stories such as nativity (1)
- through passion plays (1)

Total: 3 marks

Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Expression of and Ways of Life.

Bullet point 4.3

The different internal features of a Catholic church, including reference to Catechism of the Catholic Church 1182 – 1186: **the meaning and significance of the lectern, altar, crucifix and tabernacle and how they express** the importance of redemption and **facilitate Catholic worship**. (bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)

The question asked was: Explain **two** ways the internal features of a Catholic church facilitate worship.

A considerable number of candidates were able explain two features — the more able were able to link them to how they facilitated worship. The most popular internal features were: altar, lectern and tabernacle.

This is a full-mark answer

(b) Explain **two** ways the internal features of a Catholic church facilitate worship.

(4)

One way the internal features of a catholic church facilitate worship is through the altar which is the "table of the Lord". This facilitates worship because it is a direct reminder of the last supper. Another way the internal features of a catholic church facilitate worship is through the stained glass windows as they have dipictions of the bible on there helping catholic people to ~~the~~ visualise the story's.



Two correct ways:

- Way 1: the altar is the table of the Lord (1) a direct reminder of the last supper (1)
- Way 2: stained glass windows have descriptions of the Bible (1) helping people to visualise the stories (1)

Total: 4 marks



Separate the reasons into two separate paragraphs

Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Expression of and Ways of Life. Bullet point 4.8:

The nature and use of traditional and contemporary styles of music in worship: hymns, plainchant, psalms and worship songs, including reference to Catechism of the Catholic Church 2641; the way different music is used to express belief and the divergent ways in which it may be used in church (including the Mass) and other settings.

(bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)

The question asked was: Explain **two** ways music is used to express belief about God.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Many candidates lacked sufficient knowledge of the way music expresses belief. They were able to explain the different way music is used and different styles eg, traditional, modern praise and worship but a significant number of candidates could not develop the points. Some made good use of a source of authority such as 'when you sing you pray twice'.

This is a full-mark answer with two developed ways and a source of wisdom.

(c) Explain **two** ways music is used to express belief about God.

In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

(5)

One way that music is used to express belief about God is through hymns. These are songs of praise that are sung during mass and create an atmosphere of serenity and unity for worship. This expresses belief because they show how much ~~God~~ the worshippers adore God. Additionally, ~~the~~ St. Augustine said that "those who sing pray twice."

Another way that music is used to express belief about God is through psalms. Psalms are contained within the Bible and are put to music or singing during mass. These express belief about God because they ~~have~~ are actually from the Bible which is believed to be the inspired word of God.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

- Way 1: hymns are songs of praise sung during Mass (1) they create an atmosphere of serenity for worship (1) Augustine said that when we sing we pray twice (1)
- Way: Psalms are from the Bible put to music (1) express belief about God because they are his inspired word (1)

Total: 5 marks

Question 4 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression and Ways of Life: Bullet point 4.3: **The meaning and significance of sacred objects**, including sacred vessels, sarcophagi, and hunger cloths within Catholicism: the way these are used to express belief, including Catechism of the Catholic Church 1161, and **the divergent ways in which they may be used in church and other settings**.

The question asked was:

“Sacred objects should only be used within a church.” Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must :

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

A noticeable amount of candidates did not have a clear understanding of what is classed as a sacred object and, as a result, some of their answers showed a limited response to the question set. Less-able candidates wrote isolated responses at Level 1 that often only referred to a simplistic understanding of items used to celebrate Mass.

Those candidates who knew the role of sacred objects were able to evaluate if they should be used only in a church, using reasons such as dignity and respect as opposed to evangelisation.

This is an example of a lower range Level 3 answer

(d) "Sacred objects should only be used within a church."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you must :

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

One reason why someone may agree with this statement is because of the ~~consecrated~~ sacred vessels. The Chalice, ciborium and pater are all extremely important parts of mass as they depict transubstantiation and beliefs about the Last Supper. This ~~is~~ ^{highlighted} ~~backed up~~ by Jesus who in the New Testament where he commended transubstantiation by and attendance of mass by stating 'do this in memory of me' at the Last Supper. This is a strong argument as Jesus is God incarnate and the Bible is the highest authority of the Church, meaning that mass is extremely important, is mandatory and should be kept sacred, thus showing why some people may agree with this statement that sacred objects should ~~only~~ be used in a church. ~~Another reason~~

~~they~~
However, sacred vessels are not the only important object in ~~the~~ Catholicism. One reason why someone may disagree with ~~these~~ ^{this} statement is because of hunger cloths. ~~This is because~~ hunger cloths are popular in IFCs and are used by

organisations
~~Cooperations~~ such as CAFOD to educate children who lack basic skills such as reading about Bible stories to improve their faith. This is supported by Jesus' ~~great~~ Great Commission to the disciples to 'go out and spread the word of God', which is a strong argument as it was Jesus' final command before he ascended to heaven, and Jesus is the son of God meaning it is the words of God, thus showing why not all sacred objects should only be used in a church.

Overall, whilst the sacred vessels should be kept holy, it is important to note that there is no direct scripture telling us that sacred ~~vessels~~ vessels should only be kept in a church, as well as the fact that sacred vessels are not the only important Catholic object, as hunger cloths are an important factor in spreading the word of God as commanded by Jesus, thus meaning the weight of the argument leans more towards disagreeing that sacred objects should only be used in a church.



The candidate receives 7 marks, which is the lowest mark in Level 3.

It gives:

- A good analysis of the statement that uses logical chains of reasoning to discuss different points of view. This leads to reasoned judgements.

To be awarded Level Four the candidate would need to:

Provide reasoned judgements supported by the appraisal of arguments, leading to a justified conclusion that is consistent with the analysis.

Level 3

Total: 7 marks



Simply stating an argument is strong or weak does not necessarily move a response to the next level.

This is an example of a higher range level 3 answer.

- (d) "Sacred objects should only be used within a church." ^{Sacred vestments} chalice, paten, cibicle - Eucharist
Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. ^{holy water, Stations of Cross}
- In your response you must:
- refer to Catholic teachings
 - reach a justified conclusion.

(12)

Some Catholics could reason that the 'House of God' (CCC) is the only place that the Chalice, paten & cibicle should be used to give & deliver the Eucharist ~~in memory of me [Christ] (Corinthians)~~, however, more liberal as Christ's body should not be torn from its earthly home of the Church. However, more liberal Catholics could argue that Christ only said to partake in the Eucharist 'in memory of me' (Corinthians), not where it should be performed, & that the sacred vessels should be permitted to leave the Church to deliver the Eucharist elsewhere. I agree with the latter argument, for it seems illogical, even hubristic, to confine Christ's body to a building built by mortal men.

Some Catholics could argue that the sacred vestments, worn by the priest during Mass to ~~do the~~ become only God's servant & nothing else for the duration of the service, are symbols of liturgical worship being performed, and that such garments should thus be donned solely in the Church. However, more liberal Catholics could reason that 'the whole earth is sacred' (CCC) & so can serve as a church in itself, and thus the sacred vestments should be worn outside too, as the earth is God's house built for man to 'have dominion' (Genesis) over. I agree with the latter argument, for although the Church is heavily symbolic & you can learn your faith

through the building (Duncan Strick), it is man-made, and since ~~God~~ the earth was made by God, ~~for~~ Man, they should have the liberty to wear the sacred vestments outside the Church.

Some Catholics could argue that the holy water stoup with which the sign of the cross can be made after Mass reflects God as a Trinity & how 'The Trinity is One', & that such symbolism belongs in the Church building, considered a ~~the~~ school of religion. However, other Catholics could argue that holy water can ~~be~~ used in a multitude of ways outside the Church, like in blessing people, the sacrament of Anointing the Sick, and more, and so it would seem a waste of God's ~~grace~~ grace to keep the ~~the~~ holy water in the Church. I agree with the latter argument, for Christ said to 'go into the world' (Mark), and by demonstrating the benevolence of God through the deed of blessing those around you, you are essentially evangelising. ~~Following Christ's order to 'go and make disciples of all nations'~~

To conclude, although the Church is a holy place, a form of religious education through architecture, & a symbol of Catholic devotion, Jesus ordered his disciples to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew), meaning that using the sacred objects to their fullest potential outside the Church is more aligned with Christ's values.



The candidate has been awarded 9 marks which is top mark in Level 3 because:

It gives:

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

To be awarded Level Four the candidate would need to:

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.

Level 3

Total: 9 marks

Paper Summary

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

- Centres must teach to the specification, making sure candidates are prepared for all parts of the bullet points in preparation for the questions
- In (a) questions, candidates should write three sentences containing one piece of information in each. There is no need for development: it will not receive credit
- The 'explain' questions require two developed points, however, candidates should also be prepared to describe, where indicated on the specification
- The (d) items need an understanding of religion and belief, as well as the ability to evaluate the arguments in order to reach a conclusion. Centres may wish to consider the differentiation of teaching to enable some candidates of different abilities to concentrate on learning the information needed, before embarking on the evaluation
- Candidates should be directed to read the bullet points in the (d) questions and understand that they guide them to which viewpoints they should be providing. Centres may wish to consider identifying on the specification the different traditions/viewpoints within Christianity identified that could be used to answer these questions. The diversity within the religion is the key factor in appraising the arguments, and why do they not all agree

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

