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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Religious Studies A

Paper 2 Study of a Second Religion

2B Christianity

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Introduction GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Religious Studies A –

Faith and Practice in the 21st Century Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion Option 2B – Christianity

This paper contributes to 25% of the overall award. The paper includes two questions, each covers a section of the specification, candidates are expected to answer both questions. There is no element of choice on the paper. The details of the assessment content are provided in the specification. Centres are expected to use the Edexcel specification rather than other published resources when planning and teaching the course content. The questions set to assess candidates are based on the specification only.

This paper allows an in-depth study of Christianity as a lived religion within the United Kingdom, and its beliefs and teachings. This unit engages the interest of young people, as it addresses many Christian beliefs and teachings in addition to some issues affecting young people today.

Question One

1 (a) Outline three things which took place during the crucifixion of Jesus.

This referred to the specification

1.4 The last days of Jesus' life: the Last Supper, betrayal, arrest, trial, **crucifixion**, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus; the accounts of these within the Bible, including Luke 22–24 and the significance of these events to understanding the person of Jesus Christ.

The majority of candidates responded well to this question and gave three things that happened during the crucifixion of Jesus. A minority of candidates chose to give details of the event prior to or after the crucifixion which were not credited.

1 (a)b Explain two teachings about the role of Jesus in salvation.

This referred to the specification

1.5 The nature and significance of salvation and **the role of Christ within salvation:** law, sin, grace and Spirit, the role of Christ in salvation, including John 3:10–21 and Acts 4:8–12; the nature and significance of atonement within Christianity and its link to salvation.

Candidates on b questions should give two developed reasons. Candidates responded well to this question giving details of the role of Christ within salvation, many candidates were able to quote John 3:16.

1 (c) Explain two beliefs Christians have about the oneness of God. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

This referred to the specification

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, including reference to Matthew 3:13–17; how this is reflected in Christian worship and belief today.

Candidates on c questions should give two developed reasons, and one reason should include a reference to a source of wisdom. The majority of candidates were able to give two developed reasons about the oneness of God referring to the Trinity. Some candidates were able to gain the source of wisdom mark by quoting from the Nicene Creed. The weakest of candidates could gain 1 mark for ‘there is only one God’ as an understanding of the question.

1 (d) “Creation gives Christians responsibility to care for the world.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you must:

- refer to Christian teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

This referred to the specification

1.2 The creation of the universe and of humanity: the biblical account of creation and divergent ways in which it may be understood by Christians, including as literal and metaphorical; the role of the Word and Spirit in creation, including John 1:1–18 and Genesis 1–3; **the importance of creation for Christians today**.

Most candidates could give a good argument for the statement saying why Christians should be responsible for the planet, however, the alternative side was weaker. The new mark scheme allowed for higher marks to be awarded.

Question Two

2 (a) Outline three examples of when prayers might be used by Christians.

This referred to the specification

2.3 The nature and purpose of prayer: the nature of and examples of the **different types of prayer**; set prayers; informal prayer and the Lord's Prayer, including Matthew 6:5–14; **when each type might be used** and why; divergent Christian attitudes towards the importance of each type of prayer for Christians today.

The majority of candidates did well on this question. Examples ranged from within church and at times of difficulty, to before meals.

2 (b) Explain two examples of work undertaken by Christian Aid.

This referred to the specification

2.8 The role and importance of the Church in the worldwide community: how and why it works for reconciliation and the problems faced by the persecuted Church; divergent Christian responses to teachings about charity, including 1 Corinthians 13 and Matthew 25:31–46; **the work of Christian Aid**, what it does and why.

Candidates on b questions should give two developed reasons. Most candidates could give generic answers to what Christian Aid does, in some cases it was easy to see that they were making guesses as they referred to food banks and clothing collection which Christian Aid does not do. The stronger candidates referred to examples of the work of Christian Aid overseas.

2 (c) Explain two sacraments celebrated within the Catholic tradition. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

This referred to the specification

2.2 The role of the **sacraments in Christian life** and their practice in two denominations: the role of the sacraments/ordinance as a whole; the nature and importance of the meaning and celebration of **baptism and the Eucharist** in at least two denominations, including reference to the 39 Articles XXV–XXXVI; divergent Christian attitudes towards the use and number of sacraments in Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant traditions.

Candidates on c questions should give two developed reasons, and one reason should include a reference to a source of wisdom. This question was answered well. The majority of candidates gave two developed examples of sacraments the most popular being baptism and eucharist.

2 (d) “Every Christian should be an evangelist”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against. In your response you must:

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

This referred to the specification

2.6 The future of the Christian Church: Church growth, the history and purpose of missionary and **evangelical work**, including reference to Mark 16:9–20 and John 20:21–22; divergent ways this is put into practice by the Church locally, nationally and globally; Christian attitudes to why evangelical work is important for the Church and for individual Christians.

This question was not answered well. Many candidates misunderstood the question to be about the Evangelical Christian denomination and forcing people to be one denomination rather than another. Other candidates understood the question to be about the Great Commission and going into the world, either locally or abroad, to be an evangelist.

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

- Do not attach extra sheets to your examination paper Write within the scannable pages, using the blank spaces
- When answering the (a) items use three full sentences
- The source of wisdom offered to support answers in (c) items must be relevant to the question and support the reason given
- The (d) items asks for evaluation, after considering the evidence. The higher grades are achieved if the evidence/reasons given is 'considered' or appraised for its value as an argument as part of deciding the evaluation
- On (d) items the bullet points indicate the viewpoints that can be awarded in the answer
- Candidates should read the questions carefully, and answer the question asked, fully. Candidates should attempt every question.