



# **Examiners' Report**

## **June 2023**

**GCSE Religious Studies A 1RA0 1A**

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June 2023

Publications Code 1RA0\_1A\_2306\_ER

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## **Introduction**

GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Religious Studies A Paper 1: 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.

Please note:

AO – Assessment Objective

SPaG – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. In some questions, marks are available for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.

## 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.

### **GENERIC advice for centres to what constitutes a list.**

An example:

Outline 3 characteristics of God:

**God is creator** (1 mark)

**God is creator**, judge and lawgiver (1 mark for list or sentence)

**God is creator**, busy and distant. (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)

Busy, distant and **God is creator**, (1 mark for the sentence identifying one correct piece of information)

Creator, judge, lawgiver (1 mark for list)

Creator, busy, distant (0 Marks) (all three elements need to be correct for 1 mark)

Creator, judge, distant (0 marks)

Bullet point 1.2 Biblical understandings of God as a Trinity of Persons: the nature and significance of God as a Trinity of Persons, including reference to **the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3: 13 – 17)** and historical development of the doctrine of the Trinity, including reference to the First Council of Nicaea and the First Council of Constantinople. (*Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was 'Outline **three** details of the baptism of Jesus.'

Many candidates were able successfully to outline three details of the baptism of Jesus. Some candidates did not read the question carefully and gave three features of a baptism.

This is a good example of an answer to an (a) question.

Candidates should write three sentences containing one piece of information in each.

There is no need for development: it will not receive credit.

1 (a) Outline **three** details of the baptism of Jesus.

(3)

One detail of Jesus' baptism is that the Holy Spirit was present as a dove

Another detail of Jesus' baptism is that the <sup>God</sup> Father was present as he spoke from the heavens

A third detail of Jesus' baptism is that he got John the baptist to baptise him



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Examiner Comments

The candidate gives three sentences, each of which contains one correct outline.

Total: 3 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Write three sentences – one piece of information in each

## 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 two best will be credited.

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** reasons why belief in God the Father is important to Catholics.

Some candidates were able to make the link to God being a father-figure to guide and support. Others linked how it is important because God the Father is the creator of our life, that he gave us the earth to live.

Some candidates simply explained characteristics of God, such as law giver, and all powerful, and therefore did not answer the question correctly because they did not link to the importance of God as Father.

This is a good example of an answer to a (b) question.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why belief in God the Father is important to Catholics.

(4)

One reason why belief in God the Father is important to Catholics, is because it helps them to understand ~~that~~ God's power as the creator of the universe and all that resides within it, demonstrating God's omnipotence, as well as his eternal being, as for him to have created the universe, he has to have always been there, further proving that God the father, is the one, and only God. A second reason why belief in God the Father is important, is because it demonstrates a strong ~~rela~~ father and child-like relationship between God and Catholics, this conveys God's care for us. This is important, because it reminds us that God is there to nurture us through life.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer gives two developed reasons why belief in the Father is important to Catholics.

Reason 1: ...helps them to understand God's power as creator of the universe (1) developed with proving he is one and only God (1)

Reason 2: ...father-and-child-like relationship (1) developed with God is there to nurture us through life (1)

Total: 4 marks



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Examiner Tip

Separate the reasons into two paragraphs.

If candidates separate their reasons, as in this example, it encourages them to give two reasons and search for development.

There is no issue with the development of the problem/reason being stated first: this is acceptable and will be credited accordingly.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why belief in God the Father is important to Catholics.

(4)

One reason is because Catholics believe that the Father is a Creator, the Creator of Earth and Heaven. This provides assurance to Catholics because it reveals God's omnipotence and power.

Another reason is because Catholics can develop a human connection with God far easier as a child loves their father. It helps Catholics develop their relationship with God, similarly to how Catholics develop a relationship with their parents of whom their love is unconditional.



This answer gives two developed reasons why belief in the Father is important to Catholics.

The candidate sets out their answer in two paragraphs.

Reason 1: ...Father is creator of heaven and earth (1) developed with reveals God's power (1)

Reason 2: ...helps develop their relationship (1) developed with loves them unconditionally (1)

Total: 4 marks

## 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 1.8.

**Catholic beliefs about eschatology: life after death; the nature of resurrection, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory, including reference to John 11:17 – 27 and 2 Corinthians 5:1 – 10** ; divergent Christian beliefs about life after death, with reference to purgatory and the nature of resurrection; why belief in life after death is important for Catholics today. (*Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was Explain **two** Catholic beliefs about life after death.

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

This question was answered successfully by many candidates, who referred to developed beliefs. A significant number of candidates connected a source or a teaching to the belief given.

This candidates cites beliefs, develops them and refers to a source of wisdom and authority.

They use the belief in Purgatory and hell.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic beliefs about life after death.

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

(5)

Firstly, Catholics believe that if you have sins that need to be forgiven, you go to purgatory. This is supported in the catechism when it says ~~you~~ only those who are perfectly purified can enter heaven. This reminds Catholics to go to reconciliation for the forgiveness of their sins to join God in heaven.

Secondly, Catholics believe that people will go to hell if they use their free will to reject God. This reminds them to seek a relationship with God to avoid hell.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Belief 1: Sins you have been forgiven for, you need to go to purgatory (1) Only perfectly pure go to heaven (1) reminds people to go to reconciliation (1)

Belief 2: People go to Hell (1) using free will to reject God (1)

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Examples are a good way of developing answers.

## Question 1 (d)

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

The question is 'Evaluate this statement considering the arguments for and against and reach a justified conclusion' – there must be some consideration of the arguments (appraise the arguments to gain the higher grades).

Many candidates gave excellent answers, citing reasons for and against, but did not analyse or evaluate them. Formulas and writing frames frequently restricted the flow of the arguments, limiting the candidates' progression to the higher levels.

In many cases, the writing frames used encouraged appraisal but the candidates did not understand the demands of the skill. Some candidates wrote: 'This is a strong argument because ...' and repeated the previous point or gave another point.

Candidates were assessed on Section One. Bullet point 1.6 **The events in the Paschal Mystery:** Catholic teachings about the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, including reference to Luke 24; the redemptive efficacy of these events and their significance for Catholics today. (*Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was

“The Paschal Mystery should be the main focus in a Catholic’s life.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Many candidates knew what the Paschal mystery is and why it is important to Catholics. They could link it to the sacrifice of Jesus and the resurrection and ascension. However, many did not read the question and argued that the Paschal mystery was not important to Catholics. The question asked if it should be the main focus.

Many responses were able to argue that the Bible and the miracles of Jesus should be the main focus because they show us the way to live good moral lives.

This response is an example of a Level 3 answer and receives full marks for SPaG.

\*(d) "The Paschal Mystery should be the main focus in a Catholic's life."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

I agree with this statement as the Paschal Mystery reminds Catholics of Jesus' sacrifice for us as well as his forgiving nature. To explain this further, Jesus gave his own life to save Catholics. Furthermore, Jesus' forgiving nature was shown as he said, "Father forgive them they know not what they do", showing even in a hard and challenging moment Jesus was able to forgive others. This can give Catholics guidance in daily life as they would take this ~~best~~ example of forgiveness and follow it in their own problems. Overall, this shows the Paschal Mystery as a main focus for Catholics as through following Jesus's example of forgiveness the world can become a better place.

Another reason to agree with this statement is through the Paschal Mystery showing God's omnibenevolence for the Catholics and the world. To explain this further, ~~God~~ ~~was~~ God was prepared to give his only son to save the world, therefore showing an unconditional love. The quote, "For God so loved the world he gave his only son", highlights God's sacrifice as well as his love and passion for humans. Catholics can use this to become better people and to understand God's true nature.

Through things like stewardship and weekly mass Catholics can show their appreciation ~~appreciation~~ gratitude to God.

However, some Catholics may argue that sacraments should be the main focus in ~~our~~ Catholic's life. To explain this further, sacraments like Baptism which cleans original sin and Eucharist which celebrates the body and blood of Jesus are vital beliefs in Catholicism. The quote, "Do this in memory of me", from the last supper shows Jesus' instructions to Catholics to continue celebrating the Eucharist. Through the sacrament of the Eucharist Catholics show they are following these instructions and understanding their responsibility to Jesus. ~~and~~ Overall, sacraments should be the main focus of Catholic life as they follow ~~the~~ Jesus' actions as well as bring the Catholic world together as ~~long~~ everyone performs Sacraments.

In conclusion, I agree with this statement as the Paschal Mystery shows Catholics Jesus' and God's sacrifice which highlights the love and passion they have for humans. This allows Catholics to understand their role in showing thanks for this sacrifice. Also, Jesus shows forgiveness through the Paschal Mystery which Catholics can use as an example throughout their own life.



Level 3

The candidate:

- gives reasons for more than one side of the argument
- demonstrates an accurate understanding of religion and belief in relation to the question set
- has logical chains of reasoning
- gives reasoned judgments but in parts these are superficial
- provides a partially-justified conclusion

The response does not go beyond the lower end of Level 3 because connections are not as developed as they could be.

Detail in the opposing view is not deep enough to move it up within the level.

The candidate meets the criteria for 3 SPaG marks because they spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy and use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall.

The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Response: 8 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 11 marks



Answer every question – you might receive a mark.

If you leave a question blank, you will receive zero.

## Question 2 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. Bullet point 2.3 The funeral rite as a liturgical celebration of the Church: **practices associated with the funeral rite in the home, the church and the cemetery**, including reference to 'Preparing my funeral' by Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; the aims of the funeral rite, including communion with the deceased; the communion of the community and the proclamation of eternal life to the community and its significance for Catholics. *(Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)*

The question asked was: Outline **three** practices of the Catholic funeral rite.

Answers to this question were varied. Those that did not achieve high marks linked the funeral as a time to talk about, and say goodbye to, the deceased. They did not link it to any liturgical service or religious connections.

More successful answers were able to outline the Requiem Mass, the vigil and the committal, either at the crematorium or graveside.

An example of three correct outlines.

2 (a) Outline **three** practices of the Catholic funeral rite.

(3)

One practice of the funeral rite is the vigil service

Another practice of the funeral rite is the funeral liturgy

A third practice of the funeral rite is the committal



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate has outlined three correct practices.

The Vigil service (1)

Funeral liturgy (1)

Rite of Committal (1)



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Write three separate sentences, using the wording of the question, to write a focussed answer

## Question 2 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Practices. 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.)*

The question asked: Explain **two** reasons why Catholics use different forms of prayer.

This question was answered successfully by the majority of candidates, who were able to explain types of prayer that are used and why.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Catholics use different forms of prayer.

(4)

One reason why Catholics use different forms of prayer may be to seek forgiveness.

A prayer: someone may pray regarding a sinful act they had recently committed and they are experiencing feelings of guilt.

Another reason why Catholics use different forms of prayer may be to seek guidance. If someone is going through a rough time, a prayer for guidance or advice may prove beneficial.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate receives full marks for two correct and developed reasons why Catholics use different types of prayer.

Reason 1: Seek forgiveness (1) sinful act making them feel guilty (1)

Reason 2: Seek guidance (1) advice will prove beneficial (1)

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

When teaching prayer, use the specification examples and relevant sources.

This is an example of a candidate who has received 4 marks but has used types of prayer to achieve this.

This and the previous answer are both suitable ways to answer the question.

(b) Explain **two** reasons why Catholics use different forms of prayer.

(4)

One reason why Catholics use different forms of prayer is to strengthen <sup>praise God</sup> their faith. ~~One~~ One form of prayer is adoration, by adoring God in prayer, Catholics are worshipping and appreciating their divine father. This is important as it helps them acknowledge God as their Lord.

A second reason why there are different forms of prayer is <sup>ease</sup> bringing ease. Prayers of intercession can mean praying for the sick thus bringing a sense of comfort and guidance as the individual praying can trust that God will take control and heal or help the sick person.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate has two correct and developed reasons why Catholics use different types of prayer.

Reason 1: praise God (1) adoration to acknowledge God (1)

Reason 2: prayers of intercession (1) praying for sick brings comfort (1)

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Examples can be used to develop reasons.

## Question 2 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two: Beliefs and Teachings. Bullet point 2.1

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.)*

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** purposes of the sacrament of the sick. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom and authority.

Many candidates did not achieve high marks on this question and some candidates simply detailed how Jesus helped the sick. Many weaker answers detailed incorrectly that the purpose was to 'love thy neighbour'.

Those who had studied the sacrament were able to develop the purpose of healing and the anointing of oil to give strength. Many candidates recognised that the sacrament also allowed confession or absolution, if required.

This response is an example of a 4-mark answer with two developed purposes but no source of wisdom and authority.

(c) Explain **two** purposes of the sacrament of the sick.

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

(5)

One purpose of the sacrament of the sick is to cleanse the dying of sin. They will confess and repent to a priest. This is important due to the Catholic belief of ~~purgatory~~ purgatory, where the soul is cleansed before going to heaven. It will make the deceased's soul either go straight to heaven or spend less time in ~~purgatory~~ purgatory.

Another purpose of the sacrament of the sick is to offer closure to the dying and their loved ones. The dying can die with more peace of mind, and the loved ones' grief will be eased by the knowledge that the deceased will be in a better place.



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Examiner Comments

Purpose 1: cleanse of sin (1) easier for soul (1)

Purpose 2: closure to dying (1) more peace of mind (1)

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Learn a source of wisdom that links to each of the seven sacraments.

This is an example of a 5-mark response to 2c.

(c) Explain **two** purposes of the sacrament of the sick.

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

(5)

One purpose of the sacrament of the sick is for the priest to give the ill or dying person grace and forgive them of their sin so they may reach heaven. CCC teaches that the sacraments are an outward sign of an inward gift of grace.

Another reason is to give the sick or dying person strength and comfort. The priest anoints them with oil to symbolise God's connection with them and blesses them with strength so that they may heal and fight through their illness. The comfort they receive <sup>the family</sup> is knowing that they are more likely to reach heaven as they have been received grace.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate receives full marks for two developed purposes and a source of wisdom and authority.

Purpose 1: forgiveness of sin (1) so they may reach heaven (1) 'outward sign of inward grace' (1)

Purpose 2: give strength and comfort (1) oil blesses them with strength to heal and fight (1)

Total: 5 marks

## Question 2 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Two. 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 was:

“Jerusalem is the only place Christians need to go on pilgrimage.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

This question was well-answered in relation to the reasons why people would go to Jerusalem or other pilgrim sites. A significant number of responses incorrectly stated that Jerusalem was important because Jesus was born and raised there.

Some candidates did not read the question correctly and gave reasons for and against going on pilgrimage in general, and did not relate it to Jerusalem or another place.

Those who answered well evaluated the impact of places such as Rome and Lourdes and how this was devotion to Mary and the Pope, and therefore not as acceptable to Protestant faiths.

This response is a good example of a Level 3 answer.

(d) "Jerusalem is the only place Christians need to go on pilgrimage." - Leourd's

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

Some Catholics may agree with this statement because they want to walk in the footsteps of ~~Jesus~~ Jesus. This may help some <sup>Catholic</sup> ~~Christian~~ to reflect on the suffering and pain Jesus went through and remember the cost of salvation. In the Catechism it says that a pilgrimage can help guide Catholics on their earthly ~~the~~ journey towards heaven. This means that they are able to ~~prepare~~ become more spiritually connected with God ~~by~~ on their pilgrimage. This is a strong argument because it contains a teaching from the Catechism, which contains up to date knowledge on Catholic teachings, it also came from the Pope.

However some Protestants may disagree because they believe that ~~that~~ God is omnipresent. This means that people

Should not have to pay in order to feel a greater connection to God when he is ever-present in the world anyway. Some Catholics may also disagree because pilgrimages such as Rome and Lourdes are beneficial to them. In the Catechism it says that any pilgrimage can strengthen faith, suggesting that Jerusalem is not the only option. This is a logical argument because, if God ~~is commonly seen~~ is commonly seen as being omnipresent then why would you need to go on a pilgrimage? Places like Lourdes may give Catholics hope for healing ~~and~~ not <sup>solely</sup> Jerusalem.

In conclusion, the strongest argument is to disagree with the statement because pilgrimages aren't a necessity for Catholics, they should just ~~strengthen~~ aid their faith. Protestants are also correct in the belief that Christ is everywhere, not just in Jerusalem. Therefore there is not a 'need' to go to Jerusalem, Rome or Lourdes is also an option as is not going on one at all.

(Total for Question 2 = 24 marks)



The candidate deconstructs religious information at many points.

They write coherent and logical chains of reasoning that consider different viewpoints as required in the question.

They have made connections among many, but not all, of the elements in the question.

The candidate constructs coherent and reasoned judgements and appraises evidence, some of which is superficial. They write a partially-justified conclusion.

The candidate is awarded a mark at the bottom of the mark range for Level 3 because the candidate meets the demands of the level descriptors for Level 2 and attempts to evaluate but this is very basic.

Total: 7 marks



Always read the bullet points so you refer to the requested points of view.

### Question 3 (a)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.8 Sources of personal and ethical decision making: the example and teaching of Jesus as the authoritative source for moral teaching; Jesus as fulfilment of the Law, including Matthew 5:17 – 24; divergent understandings of the place and authority of natural law; virtue and the primacy of conscience; the divergent implications of these sources of authority for Christians today. (*Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was Outline **three** sources of moral teaching for Catholics.

This question was answered very well by the majority of candidates, who were able to outline sources such as the Bible and the Catechism. Some candidates simply stated teaching in the Bible that gives moral guidance – eg 'love thy neighbour' and did not receive marks because these are examples/teachings, not sources.

This is a short but full-mark answer.

**3 (a) Outline three sources of moral teaching for Catholics.**

(3)

One source of moral teaching is the Decalogue, the second source of teaching is the bible and the final source of teaching is the church.



Decalogue (1)

The Bible (1)

Teaching of the Church (1)

Total: 3 marks



The question asks to outline, not list or state.

3 (a) Outline **three** sources of moral teaching for Catholics.

(3)

One source of moral teachings for Catholics would be the Bible as it is the direct word of God. Another source of moral teachings is the Catechism, which teaches Catholics how to behave in a modern society and finally our conscience which is a voice God gave us in our heads which decides when to make correct choices.



This response has three correct sources.

Some of the answers are developed but (a) questions do not require development.

Bible (1)

Catechism (1)

Conscience (1)

Total: 3 marks

### Question 3 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.1 The Bible: the development and structure of the Bible as the revealed Word of God: the origins, structure and **different literary forms of the Bible**: Old Testament: law, history, prophets, writings; and New Testament: gospels, letters; including 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 candidates to: Explain **two** types of writings found in the Bible.

This question generated some incorrect answers with candidates detailing the difference between the Old and the New Testaments. Others detailed incorrectly, books contained within the Bible. Those who answered correctly used mainly laws, history and Gospel, and developed them.

Centres should always use the specification to check all areas of content have been covered during teaching.

(b) Explain **two** types of writings found in the Bible. R202

(4)

One type of writing found in the Bible is the Old Testament. This is because the Old Testament teaches us about Jesus and God in the past.

Lastly, another type of writing found in the Bible is the New Testament. This is because the New Testament doesn't only teach us about God and Jesus in the past, it teaches us about Christian beliefs and what they believe in about God and Jesus.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This response was not given any marks because it does not answer the question.

It does not give two types of writing but instead details the differences between the Old and the New Testament.

Total: 0 marks

This is an example with two developed types of writing.

(b) Explain **two** types of writings found in the Bible.

(4)

One type of writing found in the bible is gospels. These were written by disciples about stories of Jesus. Another type of writing found in the bible is ~~the~~ laws. These are <sup>rules</sup> Catholics have to follow to live the life God intended for them.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate is awarded marks for explaining two types of writings in the Bible and developing the types given.

Gospels (1) ...stories about Jesus (1)

Laws (1) follow to live life God intends (1)

Total: 4 marks

### Question 3 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Three: Sources of Wisdom and Authority. Bullet point 3.5 : The **Church as the Body of Christ and the People of God: the nature and significance of the Church as the Body of Christ and the People of God, including Romans 12:4 – 6 and 1 Corinthians 12; why the Church as the Body of Christ and the People of God is important for Catholics today; divergent Christian attitudes towards these.** (*Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked: Explain **two** Catholic beliefs about the Church as the Body of Christ.

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

Some candidates simply explained information about the Eucharist and the events of the Last Supper.

Those who gained marks were able to explain how the Body of Christ has many parts. They were able successfully to use the sources of wisdom, mainly from St. Paul, to support their points. The more able candidates also gave a second developed reason about each part having different talents, but that no-one is more important than anyone else.

This is a good example of a Q3(c) response.

(c) Explain **two** Catholic beliefs about the Church as the Body of Christ.

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

One belief about the church and the  
(Christians)  
body of Christ is that we are the working  
body of Christ on Earth. "Go forth into the  
world and preach the word of God to the whole of  
creation." Jesus wants us to complete his mission  
of spreading the word of God and by doing that the  
church is seen as the working body of Christ.

Another belief about the Church as the body  
of Christ is that Jesus is the head. This  
is because Jesus is the leader of the Church  
and commands the church just as a  
head would instruct its body to move.



This candidate is awarded full marks for two developed Catholic beliefs about the Church as the Body of Christ and a relevant source of wisdom and authority.

Belief 1: working body of Christ (1) make disciples of nations (1)  
complete the mission by working as the Body of Christ (1)

Belief 2: Jesus is the head of the Church (1) the head commands the body (1)

Total: 5 marks



Quotations do not have to be long to receive credit, nor use the exact words.

### Question 3 (d)

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. *(Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)*

The question asked:

“The magisterium is the best source of religious teaching.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

Candidates were able to recognise that the Magisterium has authority because it has apostolic succession. Some candidates confused the Magisterium with the Second Vatican Council.

The majority of candidates presented a counter-claim, arguing that the Bible is the best source of religious teaching.

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 it was clearly part of a writing frame and candidates used it without understanding what they were trying to achieve.

\*(d) "The magisterium is the best source of religious teaching."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

One reason I ~~do~~ agree with this statement is because the magisterium ~~is~~ looks at modern day issues such as IVF, abortion and sex which the Bible doesn't tell us about, ~~meaning~~ meaning that we can deal with the issues we face today without worrying about the consequence

However, ~~at~~ one reason I disagree with the statement is because ~~the~~ Jesus is the best source of religious teaching possible, as he showed tough love like in story of the rich man and also showed servanthood when he washed the feet of his disciples and he also forgave the people who crucified him meaning we should follow his example.

The stronger argument would be the agree side, this is because, despite Jesus being

a great example and role model, he doesn't face the same challenges as us so he doesn't help us to face the issues we face today, unlike the magisterium.

Another reason I disagree with the statement is because of the second vatican council which modernised the church, this is a religious teaching as it changed the way we do things in church like sacraments <sup>conclusion</sup> ~~conclusion~~ which changed Mass from Latin to ~~the~~ the vernacular meaning local language.

However another reason I ~~do~~ agree is because the extraordinary magisterium includes the pontifical which means the Pope decides, this is important as for Catholics he is the head of the church so he's the most important and only makes good decisions ~~is~~ prioritising the Catholics and those who are religious.

To conclude I agree with the statement as the magisterium explains every challenge Catholics face.



This response is an example of Level 3 – 7 marks

The candidate gains Level 3 because they deconstruct the religious information, leading to an accurate understanding of religion and belief.

The candidate:

- has given reasons for more than one side of the argument
- demonstrates an accurate understating of religion and belief
- has logical chains of reasoning

There are limited reasoned judgments, which are superficial in parts.

The candidate has tried to provide a justified conclusion but is not wholly successful.

The candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy and uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Response: 7 Marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 10 marks

This is a good example of a mid-range Level 2 answer.

\*(d) "The magisterium is the best source of religious teaching."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

- refer to Catholic teachings
- reach a justified conclusion.

(15)

The Magisterium could be seen as the best source of religious teaching as the Catechism states that "the ~~it has~~ Magisterium has been entrusted in interpreting the scriptures" which shows they have authority and that as Catholics we should be looking towards them for guidance as they will be able to interpret it for a modern time frame while allowing for Catholic values to still remain. Whereas it may be tricky for individuals to teach themselves about Catholicism, they can rely on the Magisterium, whose entire purpose is meant to guide us. What this argument fails to mention is however that not all Catholics agree with the Magisterium, and that everyone has their own spiritual/religious journey in which they may find another source

to be better such as straight from the Bible.

A better source of religious teaching may be the ~~person's own~~ Bible, in which the Catholic may interpret on their own as the Catechism states how "the consciousness is the voice of God", thus when interpreting we can be sure to use our own knowledge and mind to be wise when interpreting. In addition, the Bible is presented in the way that it is the religious teachings of Catholicism in its purest sense. Thus, must be the best source as the Bible was inspired by God directly, and has not been misinterpreted like some <sup>could</sup> ~~could~~ believe about the Magisterium.

As such, to conclude the Magisterium could not be the best source if Catholics, of the same religion, do not agree with the interpretations of the Magisterium then how could one say it's the best.



The candidate receives Level 2 – 5 marks plus 3 SPaG marks.

The candidate gives two sides of the argument that are developed, demonstrating an understanding of the different viewpoints within Catholicism.

The answer strays away from the question and explores the Bible, without linking it back to the question.

To gain a higher mark within the level the candidate needs to ensure the argument presented should give 'chains of reasoning'. A 'chain of reasoning' occurs when a candidate makes a point and then develops it several times. They can do this by providing examples, extra information, or sources of wisdom.

The Candidate spells and punctuates with consistent accuracy and uses rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. The candidate uses a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Response: 5 marks

SPaG: 3 marks

Total: 8 marks



One way of appraising is to explain a viewpoint, then evaluate its validity and why other Catholics may not accept this as a valid point.

## Question 4 (a)

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

Bullet point 4.6: The purpose and use of **symbolism** and imagery in religious art: the cross, crucifix, fish, ChiRho, dove, including Catechism of the Catholic Church 701, Eagle, Alpha and Omega, symbols of the four evangelists; the way this symbolism is used to express belief, and the divergent ways in which they 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** symbols used in Christianity.

This question was answered well, with a significant number of candidates referencing the cross, crucifix and the dove.

4 (a) Outline **three** symbols used in Christianity.

(3)

One symbol used in Christianity is the cross.  
A second symbol used in Christianity is the dove.  
A final symbol used in Christianity is the fish.



This response is awarded marks for outlining three correct symbols.

...Cross (1)

...Dove (1)

...Fish (1)

Total: 3 marks

## Question 4 (b)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Expression of and Ways of Life. Bullet point 4.4

The meaning and significance of paintings, fresco and drawings within Catholicism **with reference to two specific pieces and Catechism of the Catholic Church 2502 – 2503: the divergent ways these are used to express belief by the artist and those who observe the art**, and the divergent ways in which paintings, frescos and drawings may be used in church and other settings. *(Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.)*

The question asked was Explain **two** ways belief is expressed in one piece of religious art.

The specification requires candidates to study two pieces of art, so candidates needed only to use of the art-work that they had studied. The most popular piece of art used was the Creation of Adam.

Considerable numbers of candidates were able to use parts of the art to link to belief – such as God and Adam reaching towards each other, the way God is drawn as old and wise. Some less-able candidates did not explain how belief is expressed. Instead, they simply described a piece of art or provided a generic statement about religious art.

(b) Explain **two** ways belief is expressed in one piece of religious art.

(4)

In the creation of Adam, the omnipotence of God is shown, and how he is above humans. This can be seen by God floating above Adam, signifying his dominance. Another belief about the creation of Adam is that God is wise and all-knowing. This can be seen by God being presented as an old man, signifying wisdom and experience.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate gives two ways belief is expressed in one piece of religious art.

This response uses the Creation of Adam.

Way 1: the power of God (1) floating above Adam (1)

Way 2: God is wise and all-knowing (1) presented as an old man of wisdom and experience (1)

Total: 4 marks



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

The reason can be given after the development and will be credited.

This answer uses The Prodigal Son as its one piece of art.

(b) Explain **two** ways belief is expressed in one piece of religious art.

→ hands → masc + fem  
→ god is parental (4)

Firstly, belief in God as the <sup>parent</sup> Father is expressed through the Prodigal Son painting. The hands of the father in the image are different, one masculine, one feminine, which shows God as a parental figure.

Secondly, belief in God as omnibenevolent is expressed in the Prodigal Son painting. The father is comforting and forgiving the son, the father representing God and the son representing humanity.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate is awarded marks for citing two ways, both developed.

Way 1: the hands are different, one masculine and feminine (1) God as parent (1)

Way 2: father comforting son (1) represents humanity (1)

Total: 4 marks

## Question 4 (c)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Expression of 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. (*Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was: Explain **two** reasons why hunger cloths are important to Catholics.

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

Many candidates lacked sufficient knowledge of hunger cloths and as a result could not explain why they were important. Some candidates were able to explain how they are used as a source of evangelism and a teaching aid. Some more-able candidates made the link to the recent work of CAFOD and hunger cloths.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why hunger cloths are important to Catholics.

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

(5)

One way is for decoration, it makes the church less dull and more appealing to ~~was the lady~~, ~~some~~ ~~scout~~ colours can also be matched to meet the church's calendar.

A ~~pos~~ reason is ~~the~~ ~~it~~ that hunger cloths tell a biblical story in the form of a ~~good~~ picture, this would <sup>have</sup> helped Catholics who couldn't read or understand the mass which was said in latin.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

The candidate is awarded marks for one developed reason.

The first reason does not answer the question and is not credited.

The marks are awarded for the second paragraph:

...Tell a biblical story (1) developed with help those who couldn't read (1)

Total: 4 marks

This response shows two developed reasons.

(c) Explain **two** reasons why hunger cloths are important to Catholics.

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

(5)

Firstly, hunger cloths show pictures of Bible stories. This is important because it allows for those who are illiterate to still see and understand the teachings of the Bible.

Secondly, hunger cloths were used to cover the altar during the middle ages.

This is important because it allowed for the series of Jesus to be depicted during the time when he was in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Reason 1: shows pictures of Bible stories (1) help illiterate understand (1)

Reason 2: cover altar during Middle Ages (1) during Jesus in the desert (Lent) (1)

Total: 4 marks

## Question 4 (d)

Candidates were assessed on Section Four: Forms of Expression and Ways of Life: Bullet point 4.5: The **meaning and significance of sculpture and statues** with reference to Catechism of the Catholic Church 2501: the way these are used to express belief by the artist and those who observe the art, the way these are used to express belief, and the divergent ways in which how sculptures and statues may be used in church and other settings. (*Bold indicates the part of the bullet assessed by the question.*)

The question asked was:

“Religious sculptures and statues have lost their significance.”

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

Many candidates were able to gain marks on this question and used examples such as the Pieta and Christ the Redeemer to support the reasons given. Many were able to highlight how statues can be seen as idolatry for some Christians and how they have not adapted to the modern world.

Those candidates achieving the higher marks of Level 2 were able to give good reasons for and against the statement but did not analyse or evaluate the validity of the arguments or evidence. Formulas and writing frames restricted the flow of the arguments, limiting candidates' progression to the higher levels.

This is an example of a Level 3 response.

(d) "Religious sculptures and statues have lost their significance."

Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

In your response you should:

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

(12)

A Protestant would agree with the statement by saying that sculptures and statues have never had significance and should not be used. This is because Protestants would believe that any statue is considered idolatry as it ~~is~~ could be considered that you are worshipping something that is man made. This is a strong argument because in the Ten Commandments, it says "Do not commit idolatry".

A Catholic may also agree with the statement by arguing that they no longer become special and is often ignored. This is because the statue may not be able to evoke emotions, feelings or be as relevant to the church services ~~as the mass~~. This is a strong argument as the main focus of the church would be taken by the sanctuary and altar in the mass, for example with the transubstantiation, rather than at the statues scattered around the church.

However a Catholic may disagree with the statement by arguing that statues are able to remind Catholics of key events and beliefs throughout the mass. This is

important because a statue like the Sacred Heart of Jesus reminds Christians of Jesus' eternal love through the flames as well as his passion through the crown of thorns that encircled his heart. This is a strong argument as sculptures can evoke emotions and imagery which can deepen your faith in God.

A Catholic may also disagree with the statement by saying that sculptures are able to offer a visual focus in prayer. This is important because in the Catechism it says that artwork can be used as an aid to support prayer and worship. An example can be the statue of Madonna which reminds us that Mary is the Mother of the Church and is also our Mother and so we can pray for her intercession and guidance so that we can lead a holier life.

In conclusion, I ~~do not~~ disagree with the <sup>statement</sup> ~~statement~~ because statues offer a great way for believers (especially children) to interact and explore their faith. I believe that sculptures offer a great visual aid in prayer and worship and enables people to believe to focus on God and their key beliefs.



The candidate gains Level 3 because they deconstruct the religious information, leading to an accurate understanding of religion and belief.

Connections are made among many, but not all, of the elements in the question.

The candidate provides evidence suggesting the lowest mark of the level because judgements are supported by limited appraisal of evidence, some of which may be superficial, leading to a partially-justified conclusion.

Total: 7 marks



Appraise the argument/evidence.

Make judgements about the validity of the argument/evidence.

## Paper Summary

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

- Incorrect words or sentences should be crossed out, with one neat line through
- Do not attach extra sheets to your examination paper; write within the booklet pages using the blank space
- Candidates should read the questions carefully, to ensure that the answer relates to the question asked
- Candidates need to know the command words
- Subject-specific vocabulary needs to match that of the specification
- Candidates need to read the questions carefully to ensure that they are answering the question set
- (a) items need to use three full sentences
- (b) items should have only two developed reasons
- (c) items are similar to (b) items but should also use a source of wisdom and authority as a fifth mark
- (d) items ask for evaluation, after considering the evidence. The higher grades are achieved if the evidence/reason 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, so candidates must respond to all aspects of the question to achieve the higher marks
- Candidates need to look at the bullet points in (d) questions to ensure that they are meeting all the demands of the question and to avoid adding alternative views that the question does not require

## **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>

